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POSTHUMOUS LETTERS,

ADDRESSED TO

F. COLMAN, AND G. COLMAN, THE ELDER,

00097123

Printed by A. and R. Spottiswoode,
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POSTHUMOUS LETTERS,

FROM

VARIOUS CELEBRATED MEN;

ADDRESSED TO

FRANCIS COLMAN, AND GEORGE COLMAN. THE ELDER:

WITH

ANNOTATIONS, AND OCCASIONAL REMARKS,

BY GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER.

97123

EXCLUSIVE OF THE LETTERS, ARE,

AN EXPLANATION OF THE MOTIVES OF *WILLIAM PULTENEY* (AFTERWARDS *EARL OF BATH*) FOR HIS ACCEPTANCE OF A PEERAGE;

AND

PAPERS TENDING TO ELUCIDATE THE QUESTION RELATIVE TO THE PROPORTIONAL SHARES OF AUTHORSHIP TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE *ELDER COLMAN* AND *GARRICK*, IN THE COMEDY OF *THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE*.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL AND W. DAVIES, IN THE STRAND;

AND W. BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH.

1820.

PREFACE.

Some friends whom I consulted were of opinion that, many of the following Papers required certain explanations, relative to family and theatrical occurrences, which must be given by myself: it was determined, therefore, that they should undergo my sole arrangement, and be brought before the publick "*in my own way:*" —

Now, nothing can be more out of my way than sorting a heap of old writings, and reducing such a chaos to order.

In the present instance, too, some difficulties arise which nobody can conquer; for all the elements I have to adjust do not furnish means of producing that complete organization which may be desired: — the mass, (as is almost always the case with posthumous letters,) is not only entangled, but defective; — so that, were I even a professed and practised clearer of intricacy,

instead of an habitual offender against precision, it is now impossible, through downright dearth of the "*semina rerum*," to exhibit a thoroughly connected work. Uniformity may be extracted from a jumble of sufficient materials; but there can be no perfect harmony in a system that requires component parts which are unattainable.

I have attempted too many compositions, such as plays and poems, in which some method is necessary: a method, however, which almost comes a volunteer to him who cultivates Fancy's ground-work; — the tales a poet has to tell, for the most part, strike out for themselves, in their mere progress, a kind of orderly combination, — as young trees spontaneously dispose their shoots, with little or no trouble to the planter; — but the plodding business I have here undertaken is such as the little exuberance of imagination which I may possess would impede, and which the paucity of my documents will not sufficiently advance: with an embargo, therefore, upon invention, on one side, and a famine visiting matter of fact, on the other, — I am in a dilemma!

Notwithstanding these obstacles, I have still endeavoured to class the papers, as much as it has, in my humble judgment, appeared practicable, by a plan which I hope will facilitate pe-

rusal; and which, for the further convenience of readers, I now beg leave to point out.

The letters to my grandfather, Francis Colman, having all (except one) been addressed to him during his residence abroad, as Minister from the King of Great Britain, at the Court of Tuscany, occupy the first pages of this collection, according to their precedence in the order of time.

Of the letters to my father, George Colman, those from William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, are printed in sequence, without the interruption of any other person's correspondence; — and so are those relative to my father's translations of Terence's Plays, and Horace's Art of Poetry; — the theatrical letters are similarly kept together; — and those from Garrick, in which theatrical, domestick, and other topicks are blended, close the whole series. According to this arrangement, the other letters, which I call (for want of a better term) miscellaneous, fall easily into the places which I have assigned them. — This, I have conceived to be the least perplexing mode, even if all the manuscripts had been carefully dated, which, however, is not the case, — many of them wanting the date of the year, some of the month, and some bearing no date at all: but I have tried to observe a regular progression,

throughout each of these separate divisions, or subdivisions, as far as *any* date, or any fact mentioned, by which I might ascertain or *conjecture* a date, would enable me.

Some of the letters from celebrated men, in this collection, possess little further interest than that of having been written by them; — but the epistolary *small-talk* of distinguished persons, or a specimen of their familiar style, or a note from them of the most trivial description, are interesting to perhaps nine readers out of ten: and, if this be admitted, it is trusted that no very grave censure will fall upon the editor who prints even their *tittle-tattle*, — provided it be not that dross from the ore of a superior mind which (as in too many instances, such as in the works of Swift,) the author never intended to expose, and never *should* have been exposed, to publick inspection.

In respect to the theatrical letters, — the history of our stage, and the biography of it's retainers, have been detailed, by various hands, down to the present day: but, notwithstanding this harvest of dramatick information already gathered in, there are still innumerable gleaners in the field; — by such researchers, something may be picked up, here; something which, if not hitherto entirely unknown, may be supplemental to, and

corroborative of, what has been previously told: — at all events, these papers were never in print before.

Fidelity to the manuscripts has been observed; and many of the earlier epistles, being printed *ad literam*, will be found to teem with barbarisms in grammar, style, orthography, and punctuation; — imperfections common among eminent men of former days, but which, now, might make "even *Butchers* weep!"

It does not occur to me that any further statement is necessary, as preliminary to the letters; for, wherever any thing, in the course of them, has appeared to need elucidation, the annotations will throw as much light upon them as may be expedient, or as much as I happen to have obtained: — to extend the preface, would, therefore, be a trespass upon the reader's patience.

GEORGE COLMAN, *the Younger.*

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* While this book was in the press, I accidentally discovered that *one* letter (the first from *General Lee*) had been previously published. I know not by what means it appeared; — the original manuscript is, certainly, in my possession.

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N. B. It would have been better to have headed the foregoing theatrical letters, 'To and *From* George Colman;' but, as the Book was printed before the Table of Contents was written, the mode of placing the *Answers* to some of the letters in *parentheses* (as above) has been adopted.

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Beginning at page 231. and continued to page 325.: — included in these are two letters from Colman, at pp. 318. and 320.

ADDENDA;

Relative to the COMEDY of the *Clandestine Marriage;* beginning at page 327. and continued to the end of the Book.

ERRATA.

Page 14. line 5. for *ame*, read *am*.
28. last line, for *nous contenterons*, read *nous nous contenterons*.
30. in the note, line 2. from bott. for *satyrical*, read *satirical*.
34. The Letter, here, should have been headed '*From William Pulteney.*'
57. line 4. for *yuo*, read *you*.
94. in a note, line 3. from bott. for *to disobedience of orders*, read *of disobedience to orders*.
101. line 11. for *four five*, read *four or five*.
116. line 2. for *stranger*, read *strange*.
119. last line, for *feast*, read *feats*.
144. line 10. for *Coventry Garden*, read *Covent Garden*.
152. line 6. for *to any thing in my power*, read *to do any thing in my power*.
187. line 6. dele *and*.
198. first line of the note, for *thec*, read *the*.
201. line 4. for *Cutley*, read *Catley*.
216. line 6. of the note, for *tha the*, read *that he*.
241. in a note on *Clairon*, dele the comma after *as;* and (in the same note,) for *connoiseurs*, read *connoisseurs*.
243. line 1. at the word *Lacy* an asterisk should have been placed, as a reference to a note.
255. line 7. for *might served*, read *might have served;* and, in the last note of the same page, for *a little more*, read *a little less*.
328. last line but one, for *the Continuator*, read *the last Continuator*.
342. at the end of the first Document, place a double comma, instead of a single one, to mark the quotation.

Mem. In page 208, where 1600*l.* are mentioned, it should have been fully explained, in a note, that this sum was not demanded, by Foote, as the purchase money for his theatre, but as a life annuity to him, for his patent. He died soon after the first half-year of the annuity had become due.

LETTERS

TO

FRANCIS COLMAN.

From William Pulteney.

Dear Sir

MRS. PULTENEY was afraid that her letter to Mrs. Gumley was lost, not hearing from you sooner. but I told her that I supposed you must be in a great hurry so near the time of your departure, and that you could not be so regular a correspondent, as in a little time you would be obliged to be, with the Secretarys of State.

I am glad to hear you will make Chevening your way to Dover, but you may depend upon it that we will force you to

stay one night at least. Mr. Williams shall be extremely welcome, and I shall be proud of beginning an acquaintance with him. Your coach will be filled with your own family, if you could persuade John Gay to come on horseback with you I shall be glad of it, because the affair is over which was to have brought me to Town, so that he cannot return with me.

I will not tell you how well I wish you, till I take my leave of you, but you may depend upon it that no one is more desirous of serving you, or with greater sincerity than I am.

Your affectionate friend
& humble servant
W. PULTENEY.*

Chevening
Saturday 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

---

* WILLIAM PULTENEY (afterwards created Earl of Bath, and of whom more will be subsequently said in the course of these letters,) married a sister to the wife of Francis Colman. Mrs. GUMLEY, mentioned in the above, was mother of these ladies.

From George Dodington. *

Monday the 18th July O. S. 1721.

Dear Sir

THE Bearer of this is a young Lady of my Acquaintance, who I beg Leave to recommend to be employ'd under you, in the King's Service, whenever you stand in Need of any Body; I do really believe that she will very well acquitt herself of any thing you lay upon her, & promise myself that you will find her as able as willing to serve under you: I believe indeed I had not given you this Trouble if I had had any thing in my own Power to offer worth her Acceptance, but being laid aside, myself, & considering your Circumstances, I thought it would be an Injustice to deprive you of the Pleasure of doing for a Person every way so worthy; or seem to show a Distrust of your Readiness, to do all that you can for her Satisfaction, the very first Opportunity that happens, which, I do not in the lest doubt, will be very soon.

---

* GEORGE BUBB DODINGTON, afterwards LORD MELCOMBE. — See Note to his Second letter in this Collection.

Your Friends have diverted themselves mightily, with your sending Lord Towneshendes Letter back to him; & as I have always been one of those, who have been as free to give you Advice, as you have been not to follow it, I must repeat to you, what I have often told you; that your Witt will be your Undoing; for tho' I must confess, that it is very natural for any Man in his Senses, to send back a Minister's Letter if he should be so unlucky as to be afflicted with it; yet the Force of Custom is such, that the utmost a Man in a moderate Situation can with Prudence, do, under such a Visitation, is not to read them; & indeed the Presumption in so young a Man, of pretending to write as well, as a first Minister, may do you as much Hurt att Court, as the unaffected Coolness, & Gravity, as to Stile, & Matter, wou'd do you amongst your younger Acquaintance: & tho' I suppose You think your self secure, that your Conceits will not be comprehended, I submitt it to your Consideration, if such an Accident should happen, what must be the Consequence of it.

To talk seriously; I am very sorry to tell you that I think Affairs here, in a very ill Situation; I do not see much Likelyhood of the Stock * coming to any thing considerable; you are,

---

* South-Sea stock.

no doubt acquainted with what has been done in Parliament, relating to it; Contracts are, for a little while, suspended; & upon what you owe the Company, you muste pay 10 pr. Ct. so that I think the Quid valeant Humeri will be much more necessary to be applied to your Pockett, than to any thing else, which I know is inexhaustible: You wrote to Mrs. Colman about buying several things; she was so kind as to send to talk with me about getting them *; I thought, upon the first Hearing, that they wou'd amount to near £400; & I must confess, I did advise her not undertake it, tho' I do not very well know your Affairs; & the rather, because, when you meet, & have settled together exactly what your Fortune is, & how to be come att, if, then, you judge that it is an Expence convenient, or prudent for you to make, if you will send me your Commissions I will take Care to have them well executed.

As to Politicks, it is my Opinion that this Administration cannot stand; I think there must be a Change of Persons,

* It is a point of no consequence, — but I cannot account for my grandmother's apparent *ubiquity*, as to residence. From the preceding letter, it is to be supposed that, she accompanied her husband, on his first journey from England; from the present, it appears that he left her behind him; and from that which immediately follows, (written only two months afterwards) she seems to have gone with him to Italy. — I understand that, she went abroad with him, in the first instance, then came back, leaving him at Florence, and returned with him after a visit he had made to London.

or of Parties; I wish I may be a false Prophet: There has been, and is, in Town, a very strong Repport of the Tories coming in; a little Time will, now, show what is in it: In Case this Accident should happen, I desire you would lett me know, whither staying where you are, would not be better for you, than any thing you can propose att home; because may be, I may find Friends enough amongst them, to gett you continued, att least I will endeavour it, but not without your Orders: I hope nothing of this kind will happen, but as I have a sincere Desire to serve, or to endeavour to serve you, it is right for me to know your Opinion, upon all Events, how distant soever.

I am, with the most sincere Affection, & Esteem,

Dear S^{r}.

Your most faithfull

& most obedient Servant.

Geo. Dodington.

All your friends give their Service; Ld. Stanhope, Ld. Lumley, & myself sett out, for Eastbury, to-morrow.

From John Gay. *

My Dear Colman,

I HOPE you will believe me that Nobody interests himself more in your welfare than I do; I was mighty sorry I had not the opportunity of seeing you before you left England; I wish you may

---

* JOHN GAY, the poet and dramatist; — his works and life are so well known, that the following quotations may be thought redundant: but they bear upon points in the present letter, wherein he mentions "the *cholical* humour in his stomach;" and advises his friend "never to sink under a disappointment."

"GAY, in that disastrous year" [1720] "had a present from young Craggs of some South-Sea stock, and once supposed himself to be master of 20,000*l*. His friends persuaded him to sell his share; but he dreamed of dignity and splendour, and could not bear to obstruct his own fortune. He was then importuned to sell as much as would purchase an hundred a-year for life, *which*, says Fenton, *will make you sure of a clean shirt and a shoulder of mutton every day.* This counsel was rejected; the profit and principal were lost, and Gay sunk under the calamity so low, that his life became in danger." — JOHNSON'S *Lives of the Poets.*

"——— It is supposed that the discountenance of the Court sunk deep into his heart, and gave him more discontent than the applauses or tenderness of his friends could overpower. He soon fell into his old distemper, an habitual colick, and languished, though with many intervals of ease and cheerfulness, till a violent fit, at last, seized him, and hurried him to the grave, as Arbuthnot reported, with more precipitance than he had ever known. He died on the 4th of December, 1732, and was buried in Westminster Abbey." — *Ibid.*

find every thing to your advantage, & every thing agreeable; I own my not writing to you has the appearance of Forgetfullness, but there is no acquaintance you have thinks and talks of you oftener. you see I endeavour to persuade you into the same opinion of me, that you must be convinc'd I have of you, because I have, on many occasions, singled you from the rest of my Friends to confide in. I don't mention your happiness in Love, I wish you happiness in every thing beside. I hope Mrs. Colman met with no difficultys in your journey; I am sure she will find none while she is with you. I live almost altogether with Lord Burlington and pass my time very agreeably. I left Cheswick about three weeks ago, and have been ever since at the Bath for the Cholical humour in my stomach that you have heard me often complain off; Here is very little Company that I know; I expect a summons very suddenly to go with Lord Burlington into Yorkshire. you must think that I cannot be now and then without some thoughts that give me uneasiness, who have not the least prospect of ever being independent; my Friends do a great deal for me, but I think I could do more for them. Mr. Pulteney & Mrs. Pulteney had some thoughts of the Bath, but I fancy their journey is put off; I saw them at Cheswick just before I left it. you'l hear before my Letter can reach you of poor Lord Warwick's death; it has given me many a melancholy reflection; I lov'd him, and cannot help feeling con-

cern whenever I think of him. Dear Colman be as cheerfull as you can, never sink under a disappointment, I give you the advice which I have always endeavourd to follow, though I hope you will have no occasion to practise it; for I heartily wish you may be always cheerfull; and that you may always have very good reasons to be so.

I am

Dear Colman,

Yours most sincerely.

J. Gay.

Bath, Aug. 23. 1721.

My service to Mrs. Colman — direct to me at White's, if you will give me the pleasure of hearing from you.

From William Pulteney.

London, Sept^{r} 21st, 1727.

Sir,

I HAVE the favour of yours of the 6th Instant, N S., advertising me of the Bill of two hundred pounds which you had drawn on me for the Damask. It is since come to hand and I have given directions for the payment of it.

In an assembly of Ladys at my house a few nights ago, it was upon mature consideration determined, that Red and Green were the best and most lasting Colours for furniture in London. The Ionquille, which you said was made for the Cardinal Fleury, would not keep clean two years in this smokey Town, therefore if you please the Pattern of that may be made in Red, but the Yellow colour is by no means proper. in short Mrs. Pulteney leaves the whole to you desiring to have the Damask very rich and the Pattern very large.

Now I have given you this trouble I must take a farther liberty, and you must not be angry with me if I chide you a little

for your extravagance; What makes you throw away your money in Presents? I am much concernd for your expense on my account, and I blame you for it on any other body's, believe me Coleman, there are very few people worth valuing so much as to make oneself a farthing the poorer for them. for my part, I own that I am grown quite out of humour with the world, and the more I grow acquainted with it, the less I like it. There is such a thing as Cunning, there is falshood and there are views of self-interest that mix themselves in almost all the friendships that are contracted between man and man, These make friendships hardly worth cultivating any where. I am sure no where worth being at any considerable charge to preserve it. Do not mistake what I have said. I mean it not particularly to any one person, but in general I am sure what I have said is true.

I am sorry you have now so little hopes of returning to England to see your friends, Perhaps Mr. Hedges's leaving of Turin will make it more difficult, for until Mr. Finch getts there, you will be the only Minister the King will have in those parts. I should think Mr. Hedges, whom I take to be a man of real worth and honour, and who has besides a great deal of good nature, might be a proper person to recommend you to the Ministers, to get you an advanced Character, I will wait on him as soon as he comes over and try to engage him in it. This is

the only way I can propose doing you any service for the present, when it is more in my power you shall not want the assistance of those that have call'd themselves your friends, & have hitherto done you so little good. If I have moralized too much in the former part of my letter, I assure you it is this consideration has made me do so.

Mrs. Colman is pretty well, but by nursing herself up too much, she is so chilly that she can scarce stir abroad without catching cold. I wish your circumstances would allow your living together, because I believe a hot country would agree perfectly well with her

Mrs. Pulteney is much yours and I am
Very sincerely
Your affectionate friend and servant
Wm. Pulteney.

I showd Mrs. Pulteney my letter and she bid me add a Postcript, to explain that the red and green should not be mixed, but half the Quantity of one Colour, and half of the other, and that the Green should be a full deep colour.

From George Dodington.

London, the 27th June O S. 1728.

Dear Sr

I HOPE this will be given you at Paris, by Mr Walpole. I think we have got your arrears, of which I give you Joy. You

---

When this letter was written, in June, Mr. Francis Colman was meditating an excursion to his native country; but it is evident, from that which soon follows, that he did not reach Dover before the end of December in the same year; his wife, who it seems had previously come home, returned with him at the expiration of his visit to England.

The political character of GEORGE BUBB DODINGTON (afterwards *Lord Melcombe*) is as well known as his *Diary*. *Cumberland*, in his Memoirs of his own Life, speaks of Dodington's writing "small poems with great pains, and elaborate letters with much terseness of style, and some quaintness of expression;" of his "lolling in his easy chair, in his lethargic way," and emitting "gleams of wit, and flashes of irony;" and of his love of splendour in his houses and equipages; which passion was not accompanied with the best taste. His anxiety, here shewn, about Italian silks, brocades, and boxes of flowers, may be illustrated by the following extracts. —— "Neither was he less characteristic in apparel than in equipage; he had a wardrobe loaded with rich and flaring suits, each in itself a load to the wearer, and of these I have no doubt but many were coeval with his embassy above mentioned," [to Madrid] "and every birth-day had added to the stock. In doing this he so contrived as never to put his old dresses out of countenance, by any variation in the fashions of the new; in the mean time, his bulk and corpulency gave full display to a vast expanse and profusion of brocade and embroidery, and this, when set off with an enormous tye-periwig and

must own but one piece of Italian silk sent to me, & that is the Green one, brocaded, Say I sent for one & left the Choice to you; as also but one Box of Flowers, which you sent me for M^rs^ Colman, who I have sent one to, & kept the other.

I heartily wish you a good Journey, & ame

Dear Colman,

entirely Yours,

GEO. DODINGTON.

---

deep laced ruffles, gave the picture of an ancient courtier in his gala habit, or Quin in his stage dress;" &c. &c.

"When he paid his court at St. James's to the present Queen upon her nuptials, he approached to kiss her hand, decked in an embroidered suit of silk, with lilac waistcoat and breeches, the latter of which, in the act of kneeling down, forgot their duty, and broke loose from their moorings, in a very indecorous and uncourtly manner.

"I had taken leave of Lord Melcombe the day preceding the coronation, and found him before a looking-glass in his new robes, practising attitudes, and debating within himself upon the most graceful mode of carrying his coronet in the procession. He was in high glee with his fresh and blooming honours, and I left him in the act of dictating a billet to Lady Hervey, apprising her that a *young lord* was coming to throw himself at her feet." *Memoirs of Richard Cumberland, written by himself.*

From the Earl of Chesterfield. *

I RECEIV'D with a great deal of pleasure the favour of your letter, and have, as farr as I was able, obey'd your commands in relation to Marquis Riccardo; that is, I have been to wait upon him, & to offer him what services I could do him here, which are none at all, since (as you very well know) it is impossible to break through the inhospitality of this Country enough, to make any foreigner pass his time tolerably here. He has been ill of a feaver almost ever since his arrivall, and seems to have so indifferent an opinion both of our Climate and our Politeness, that I believe he will not stay very long.

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* This was *Philip Dormer Stanhope*, the fourth *Earl of Chesterfield*, whose memory is much more admired for his brilliant talents than it is respected for his ethics. "Chesterfield's Letters to his Son," says Doctor Johnson (perhaps a little too severely), "inculcate the morals of a strumpet with the manners of a dancing-

I am very sorry you could imagine that an absence of seven years or even twice that time, could remove you from the thoughts of one, who always thought of your friendship and acquaintance with the utmost satisfaction; and must take this opportunity of desiring in reality, what I shall soon be oblig'd to desire in form; which is the honour and pleasure of your Correspondence. I hope too, that our long acquaintance, will justify me in desiring that it may be upon a freer foot, than barely from His Majesty's Minister at Florence, to His Majesty's Minister at the Hague.

I shall set out for Holland in about six weeks to begin my Apprenticeship to that Trade, which you are already Master of; I am sensible of the difficultys of it; and the little hopes I have of succeeding in it; but as the King (from having a better opinion of me than I deserve) has oblig'd

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master." Johnson was no judge of *manners*, if he himself may be judged from his own practice of them. — In this letter, the noble Earl speaks with great modesty of "beginning his apprenticeship" at the Hague, to which place he was appointed ambassador in the year 1728, — for his address in Holland preserved Hanover from a war, in consequence of which the King made him High Steward of the Household and a Knight of the Garter.

me to undertake it, I must endeavour to go through it, as well as I am able.

I am with the greatest truth and regard
your most obedient
humble Servant
CHESTERFIELD.

London Nov. y^e 20^th.

From James Payzant.

Dear Sir,

I RECEIVED this day, with great pleasure, both your letters of 29 and 30^th inst. N. S. acquainting me that I shall soon have the honour of seeing you here. I shall take care to pay the bill of 60l. You have drawn upon me.

I hope this will meet You at Dover: I have desired my friend Mr. Minet to deliver it to You so soon as he hears you are landed, and to do You all the service he can towards forwarding Your Journey hither.

I rejoice to hear You enjoy Your health better than when You left Florence.

I waited upon Mr. Dodington this morning, who longs very much to See you. He is gone out of Town but will return on Saturday next, he desires that You will send word to his House in Pall Mall of Your Arrival in Town, which I shall likewise be very glad to know.

I am with the greatest truth and Esteem

D^r S^r

Your most obedient

humble servant

Ja. Payzant.

Whitehall 26 Dec. 1728.

M^r Colman.

From George Frederic Handel. *

Londres ce $\frac{19}{30}$ de Juin 1730.

Monsieur,

Depuis que j'ay eu l'honneur de vous ecrire, on a trouvé moyen d'engager de nouveau la Sig^ra^ Merighi, et cõme c'est une voix de Contr'alto, il nous conviendroit presentement que la Femme qu'on doit engager en Italie fut un Soprano. J'ecris aussi avec cet ordinaire a Mr. Swinny pour cet effet, en luy recomandant en meme tems que la Femme qu'il pourra Vous proposer fasse le Role d'hõme aussi bien que celuy de Femme. Il y a lieu de croire que Vous n'avez pas encore pris d'engagement pour une Femme Contr'Alto, mais en cas que cela soit fait, il faudroit s'y en teni

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* Handel's fame as a Musical Composer precludes a necessity for any description of him, here. The engagement of Performers, for the Italian Opera, in the Hay-market, seems *infrà dignitatem*, for the representative of His Britannic Majesty; but, from Handel's Letters, and those of *Swiny*, which follow, it is to be supposed that the agency of the Minister at Florence, in respect to these matters, was official: — In this letter, the writer expresses impatience for intelligence, " *pour en informer* la Cour." See the next note, on the letter from *Swiny*.

Je prens la Liberté de vous prier de nouveau qu'il ne soit pas fait mention dans les Contracts du premier, second, ou troisieme Rolle, puisque cela nous géne dans le choix du Drama, et est d'ailleurs sujet a de grands inconveniens. Nous esperons aussi d'avoir par Votre assistance un hom̄e et une Fem̄e pour la Saison prochaine, qui comence avec le mois d'Octob^{r} de l'anée Courante et finit avec le mois de Juillet 1731, et nous attendons avec impatience d'en apprendre des nouvelles pour en informer la Cour.

Il ne me reste qu'a vous reiterer mes assurances de l'obligation particuliere que je Vous aurai de votre Bonté envers moi a cet egard, qui ai l'honneur d'etre avec affection respectueuse

Monsieur

Votre

tres humble et obeissant

Serviteur

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL.

A Monsieur Monsieur Colman, Envoyé extraord^{are} de S. M. Britanique, aupres de S. A. R. le Duc de Toscane a Florence.

From Owen Swiny. *

Bologna July 18th, 1730.

S^r^

I AM favoured w^th^ y^rs^ of y^e^ 15^th^ instant, & shall Endeav^r^ to observe punctually w^t^ you write about. I find

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* "The most apparent difficulty to be got over, in this affair," [the union of the two theatrical companies, in London], "was, what could be done for *Swiny*, in consideration of his being obliged to give up those actors whom the power and choice of the Lord Chamberlain had, the year before, set him at the head of, and by whose management those actors had found themselves in a prosperous condition. But an accident, at this time, happily contributed to make that matter easy. The inclination of our people of quality for foreign operas had reached the ears of *Italy*, and the credit of their taste had drawn over from thence, without any more particular invitation, one of their capital singers, the famous Signior *Cavaliero Nicolini*: from whose arrival, and the impatience of the town to hear him, it was concluded that operas, being now so completely provided, could not fail of success; and that, by making *Swiny* sole director of them, the profits must be an ample compensation for his resignation of the actors. This matter being thus adjusted," &c. &c.

Apology for the Life of Colley Cibber.

The *Biographia Dramatica*, under the article of "SWINY, OWEN, MAC," tells us that he was "a gentleman born in Ireland, formerly a manager of Drury-Lane Theatre, and afterwards of the Queen's Theatre in the Hay Market. On leaving that office he resided in Italy several years, and at his return procured a place in the Custom-house, and was keeper of the King's Mews. He died the 2d October, 1754,' &c

In the *Introduction* to the last quoted work, it is stated, that *Swiny* was "a mere adventurer, without property, who had been employed, by Mr. Rich, as under-

Senesino or *Carestini* are desired at 1200 G^{s} each, if they are to be had; Im'e sure that *Carestini* is Engaged at Milan, & has been so, for many Months past: and I hear y^{t} *Senesino*, is Engaged for y^{e} ensuing Carnival at Rome.

manager," &c.; — and further, that, — "It was then resolved, [1708] That the Theatre in the Hay Market should be appropriated to Italian operas, and that in Drury-Lane to plays. The one given to *Swiny*, and the other continued with *Rich* and *Brett*." — From the revolutions happening in theatres, Swiny was obliged to shift his ground, occasionally, according to the operations of official controul; — being, at one time, conductor of Italian operas only; then, of plays; at length, Colley Cibber thus mentions him, as "reduced to his Hobson's choice of the opera:"

"*Swiny* being thus transferred to the opera, in the sinking condition *Collier* had left it, found the receipts of it, in the winter following, 1711, so far short of the expenses, that he was driven to attend his fortune in some more favourable climate, where he remained twenty years an exile from his friends and country; though there has scarce been an *English* gentleman, who, in his tour to France or Italy, has not renewed, or created an acquaintance with him. As this is a circumstance that many people may have forgot, I cannot remember it without that regard and concern from all that know him: yet it is some mitigation of his misfortune, that, since his return to England, his grey hairs, and cheerful disposition, have still found a general welcome among his foreign and former domestic acquaintance."

Cibber's Apology.

It appears from the present letters, that although Swiny left England in 1711, (according to Colley Cibber's account,) he still kept his interests alive in respect to the Opera-house in the Hay Market. Those who wish for further particulars concerning him, are referred to *Colley Cibber*'s book above mentioned, and to the Introduction of the *Biographia Dramatica*.

If *Senesino* is at liberty (& will accept y^e^ offer) then the affair is adjusted if Sig^ra^ Barbara Pisani accepts the offer I made her, which I really believe she will.

If we can neither get *Senesino,* nor Carestini, then M^r^ Handel desires to have a man (Soprano) & a woman contrealt, & y^t^ The price (for both) must not exceed *one Thousand* or *Eleven hundred* Guineas, & that the persons must sett out for London y^e^ latter end of Aug^t^ or beginning of Septemb^r^, and y^t^ no Engagem^t^ must be Made w^th^ one with^t^ a certainty of getting the other.

Several of the persons recomended to M^r^ Handel (whose names he repeats in y^e^ letters I received from him this Morning) are I think exceedingly indifferent, & Im'e persuaded wou'd never doe in England: & I think shou'd never be pitch'd on, till nobody else can be had.

I have heard *a Lad* here, of a^bt^ 19 years old, w^th^ *a very good soprano voice* (& of whom there are vast hopes) who Im'e persuaded, would do very well in London, and much better than any of those mentioned in M^r^ Handel's letter who are not already engaged in case you cannot get *Senesino.*

I have spoken with him and with y^e^ person under whose direction he is, & they both of 'em hearken w^th^ pleasure to

a proposal of going for London, & they have promised me to accept of no offer, till they have an answer from me, which I cannot give 'em till I hear from you, & That you approve y^e^ person w^ch^ I suppose you will in case you do not fix *on some other person.*

I write this letter to you in great haste, being just on my departure for Rome, being obliged to wait on Lord Boyn & M^r^ Walpole, in y^e^ tour w^ch^ they are making: our stay there, will not be above Ten days, then we shall sett out for Florence; but we design to visit Leghorn, Pisa, Lucca &c. first.

I expect an answer from Sig^ra^ Barbara Pisani, by the next post, w^ch^ will meet me at Rome: as soon as I receive it I ll let you know her resolutions, & then you may provide a Woman in her room in case she does not accept my offer, & on my arrival in Florence we'l settle what is to be done about y^e^ young Lad I mention, in case you do not find one y^t^ is better for our purpose, in y^e^ mean time.

I shall say no more at present, but conclude mye Self w^th^ respects to Mrs. Colman,

Y^r^ very much obliged & most
Obed^t^ hum^ble^ Ser^t^,
Owen Swiny.

I should be glad to know whether you got *Senesino*; my addresse is chez Mess^rs^ Rizzi & Macirone Banq^rs^ a Roma.

Having not time to answer Mr. Handel's Letter, this day, I hope you will be so good as to let him know y^t^ I shall Endeav^r^ to serve him to the utmost of my power, & y^t^ I shall do nothing but w^t^ shall be concerted by you.

A Mons^r^ Mons^r^ Colman Resident
de Sa Majesté Britanique a
Firenze.

From the Same.

Rome, July 29^th^ 1730.

S^r^

I WAS in hopes of y^e^ Hon^r^ of a Letter from you, to let me know whether *Senesino* had accepted the offer of 1200 G^s^ If he does not, *Then*, we must provide a *Soprano Man* & a *Contrealt Woman* (tho the *Merighi* stays) at ab^t^ 1000 G^s^ (both) or, Thereab^ts^ — w^th^ an absolute condition of their being in London by y^e^ end of Septem^br^

I told you I had a young Fellow in View w^th^ a good Voice & other requisites, in case *Senesino* (or some other fit person) cou'd not be Engaged — I have rec^d^ no answer, as yet, From the Sig^ra^ Barbara Pisani, but hope to have one by y^e^ next week's ordinary — as soon as I receive it, I shall not fail to give you the purport of it.

We set out, from hence, this day Se'night or sunday y^e^ 6^th^ of August & we make the best of our way for Florence, by Perugia, Cortona &c.

My Lord Boyn & Mr. Walpole make their best compliments to you & y^r^ Lady — I am w^th^ respects to her

Y^r^ Oblig'd Serv^t^
Owen Swiny.

A Mons^r^ Mons^r^ Colman Resident de
Sa Majes^té^ Britañiq
Firenze.

From Stephen Horseman.

London. 7th the 21. 1730.

Hon[d] ffriend

I HAVE herewith enclosed a printed [*a word in the MS. is here omitted*] which I mentioned to Thee in my Last, and which I have sold to the King of Portugal for one hundred Pounds: If I have any thing else newer Curious I shall always communicate it to Thee: in Thine of the 7[th] of ffeb[ry] past Thou advised that the Spring Clocks was arrived Safe and was also so kind as to say Thou would remit me the Money, Trade has been very dull and consequently money very Scarce if Thou will be so good as to order it to be paid to me now I shall acknowledge it as a very great favour I am with gratitude for all *Thy* ffavours and with Sincere Love

Thy much obliged ffriend

STEPHEN HORSEMAN.

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* STEPHEN HORSEMAN was a well-known clock-maker in London; and the phraseology of his letter leaves little or no doubt of the religious sect to which he belonged. It is a curious sample of the mild spirit in which an honest Quaker is moved to *dun*.

From George Frediric Handel.

à Londres $\frac{27}{16}$ d'Octobrà, 1730.

Monsieur,

Je viens de recevoir l'honneur de Votre Lettre du 22 du passée N. S. par la quelle je vois les Raisons qui vous ont determiné d'engager S^r^ Senesino sur le pied de quatorze Cent ghinees, a quoi nous acquiescons, et je vous fait mes tres humbles remerciments des peines que vous avez bien voulu prendre dans cette affaire. Le dit S^r^ Senesino est arrivé ici il y a 12 jours et je n'ai pas manqué sur la presentation de Votre Lettre de lui payer a compte de son salaire les cent ghinées que Vous Lui aviez promis. Pour ce qui est de la Sig^ra^ Pisani nous ne l'avons pas eüe, et comme la saison est fort avancée, et qu'on comencera bientôt les Operas, nous nous passerons cette année cy d'une autre Feme d'Italie ayant deja disposé les Operas pour la Compagnie que nous avons presentement.

Je Vous suis pourtant tres obligé d'avoir songé a la Sig^ra^ Madalena Pieri, en cas que nous eussions eu absolument besoin d'une autre Femme qui acte en homme, mais nous contenterons

des cinq Personnages ayant actuellement trouvé de quoi suppléer du reste.

C'est a Votre genereuse assistance que la Cour et la Noblesse devront en partie la satisfaction d'avoir presentement une Compagnie a Leur gré, en sorte qu'il ne me reste qu'a Vous en marquer mes sentiments particuliers de gratitude et a Vous assurer de l'attention tres respectüeuse avec la quelle j'ay l'honneur d'etre

Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres obeissant

Serviteur

GEORGE FREDIRIC HANDEL.

A Monsieur Monsieur Colman Envoyé Extraordinaire de sa Majesté Britañique aupres de son Altesse Royale le Grand Duc de Toscane

à Florence.

From Charles Hanbury Williams. *

Genoa y^e 23d of November 1730

D^r S^r

I TAKE this opportunity to thank you for Y^rs & for all favours rec^d in Italy and elsewhere & wlïish for nothing more than the opportunity of showing You what a real esteem and friendship I have for you & how desirous I am of serving you any where:

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* Afterwards SIR Charles, being installed Knight of the Bath in the year 1746. It is said of him that "the author of Satirical Odes penn'd excellent despatches;" and that "he was the soul of the celebrated coterie, of which the most conspicuous members were, Lord Hervey, Winnington, Horace Walpole (late Earl of Orford), Stephen Fox, (Earl of Ilchester,) and Henry Fox, (Lord Holland,) with whom, in particular, he lived in the strictest habits of intimacy and friendship." He was envoy to the court of Dresden, then minister plenipotentiary to the court of Berlin, and afterwards ambassador to the court of Petersburg. In the latter part of his life he laboured under mental derangement. Many of his poetical effusions (which are chiefly political and satyrical) are extant, in *the Foundling Hospital for Wit.* An account of him is given in *Mr. Coxe's Tour in Monmouthshire.*

The Gentleman that brings You This Is the same I wrote to you about being Him that Comes to study There. All favours you do him will be the same as done to my self: & I hope therefore you'll oblige him in all You Can. I shall take a further Oppertunity from England to beg pardon for this trouble & to Enquire after your & Y^r^ Ladys & the Young ladys health: to both I beg my Compliments. I am D^r^ S^r^

Y^r^ sincere friend & hum^ble^ Serv^t^

C. H. WILLIAMS.

From William Pulteney.

Dear Sir

I HAVE not writ to you this long time, nor do I design to trouble you with many letters by the Post. It is a very dangerous conveyance, I should be unwilling to do you any harm, and I must disguise my sentiments extremely, if I enter the least into the consideration of Publick Affairs, without abusing those Fools (I mean our Ministers) who have had the conducting them. Do not be frighten'd at what I have said, for this comes to you by a very safe hand; Sam Gumley was with me about an hour ago, and told me he design'd to sett out for France to-

morrow morning, and intended to make you a visit at Florence before he return'd. If I would send him a letter in half an hours time, he said, he would charge himself with delivering it safely into your own hands. I have not much to write to you, nor much time to write any thing in, but I send you some other writings will entertain you much better than I am able to do it. He will give you a sett of the Craftsman, which you must putt like the Monks into that part of your Library which they call *L'Inferno;* and be sure like them, to read these books more than any in the rest of the Library; there are some other Pamphletts which as old as they are will be new and entertaining to you.

I hear our Fleet has orders to sail soon, and S^r^ Charles Wager is to conduct D. Carlos to Italy. Maj. Gen. Clayton is to have the command of two English Battallions which are to be put on board the Fleet. and we have hopes given us that five months after D. Carlos shall be well settled in Italy, Spain has promised to sign an Act of Approbation of the last Vienna Treaty. Good God what are we come to! that we must be courting folks, and begging they would give us leave to do them a piece of service; would any one imagine that at the very time we are doing this Job for them we should not have Interest enough with them to obtain a security for our rightful

possessions? but on the contrary the works are still carrying on before Gibraltar, and the Governor of it expects every hour to be besieged. An English Fleet at Leghorn, and two English Battallions in Italy, will very probably encrease your Expence considerably, I am afraid those who should, will not think of encreasing Your Salary in proportion.

Mrs Pulteney is too lazy to write herself to Mrs Colman, but has desired me with my own to present her service to you both. and returns you many thanks for a fan she has received. We have bespoke you a Piece of useful Plate, which shall be sent to you by the first opportunity.

I have not time to say any thing more, for to tell you the truth, a Pamphlett came out a few days ago supposed to be writ by Sr Rob. Walpole himself wherein, I am treated with great acrimony; It is necessary I should reply, and speedily too, so that if I can I must dip my Pen in gall, after it has told you that I am with the greatest truth and sincerity

Most affectionately

Yrs.

Wm Pulteney.

Arlington street
June ye 12th O.S. 1731.

London, Aug^{t}. 25th 1731.

Dear Colman

I HAVE not troubled you with many letters, not caring to write to any one by the Post, and especially not to those I may chance to prejudice by my Correspondence. I have been lately at Tunbridge not on my own, or M^{rs} Pulteneys account, but for the sake of my little girl, who has been much afflicted with an Ague, but is now by the Waters perfectly recovered. We have had a most dreadful hot Summer in England, I reckon you have been roasted at Florence notwithstanding which I should be glad to hear M^{rs} Colman is in good health, and more likely to bring a boy soon into the world than the Dutchess of Parma, by the by, I am told that you among others are one appointed to peep into the Lady's Privitys, and watch narrowly that no Pretender be imposed upon the world. perhaps you may not be displeased with the Office, but as your Friend, I am best pleased to hear that his Majesty is likely to pay for your peeping. and that you have obtained an additional Pay of three pounds a-day. I heartily rejoyce at it, & I know D^{r} Colman that you deserved this long ago; but in the present Treaty making Age, there is but one way for a Foreign Minister to gett into

favour, & become considerable, and that is by trying to make a Treaty as well as the best of them. This I understand you have done, & upon the Success of it give me leave to congratulate you and Father Ascanio. The great Horace himself I dare say could not have done better than it will appear you have done, I wish you could have got an Article inserted in this Treaty, whereby the Venus of Medicis and half a dozen other of the best Statues and Curiositys of the Gallery should be given & yielded to us, by way of acknowledgment for the services done to Don Carlos, and the great Dukes great Diamond I think ought to be yours to compensate your trouble as a Midwife, and a Minister.

Mrs Pulteney has received a letter from the Dutchess of Buckingham, it is filled with praises of you & Mrs Colman, and gives a long account of all your Civilitys. such a number of English, as have lately passed through Florence must have been extreamly expensive to you, but Don Carlos's future favour must make up all. I expect to hear of your being his chief favourite, for which reason I have sent you a silver Terrene, (if that be not nonsense, but it is as good sense as a silver Ink horn) in which I beg you would give Don Carlos the first Ollio, he eats in Italy. I cannot yet tell you by what

Ship it is to be sent, but you shall soon have notice and the Bill of Loading.

Many of your Friends desire their services, but I have not room or time to tell you their names. Mrs Pulteney sends her compliments to you: & Mrs Colman and I am Dear Sr wth great truth and affection

Your sincere friend and
humble Servant
Wm Pulteney.

From William Pulteney.

Dear Sir,

Tho' I writ to you a few Posts ago, yet I must trouble you with another letter. Mr. Sandys a very particular friend of mine has desired me to acquaint you that his Brother in Law Mr. Archer is coming to Florence, and he hopes you will shew him all the Civilitys in your Power. I assured him that my recommendation would be needless, for you was so Polite & so well bred,

that I was confident a Gentleman of M^r^ Archer's Rank and distinction, could not be a quarter of an hour in the Town, but Monsieur L'Envoy would be with him. However least any assiduity in paying your Court to Don Carlos *, should by accident make you less inquisitive about your own Countrymen, I take liberty to acquaint you that M^r^ and M^rs^ Archer will be w^th^ you soon, and as they are both of them acquaintances of mine & M^rs^ Pulteney's, I hope you will be particularly civil to them, & do them all the honours you can.

Young Master, I suppose, thrives apace, and under M^rs^ Tyndall's hand to be sure every thing grows as it should

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* Don Carlos, *Infanta of Spain.* "The Parliament of Great Britain meeting on the 13th of January (1731), the King in His Speech declared that the great tranquillity of Europe was restored and established by the last treaty of Vienna: that Don Carlos was actually possessed of Parma and Placentia: that six thousand Spaniards were quietly admitted and quartered in the Duchy of Tuscany, to secure, by the express consent and agreement of the great Duke, the reversion of his dominions: and that a family convention was made between the Courts of Spain and Tuscany, for preserving mutual peace and friendship in the two houses."

Smollet's History of England.

do.* I hear that Lord Essex setts out for the Court of Turin in about ten days, but probably he will stay some time at Paris. This day is to conclude a very tedious Sessions of Parl^{t}, and on Saturday the King begins his journey to Hannover where he will not stay above two months. I hope our Court and that of Prussia are going to be reconciled, I am sure it is for their mutual interest to be on good terms wth each other, & the delay of the match with the Princess of Mecklenburgh makes me conclude what I wish, will be true, that a match will at least be made with our Princess.

Lord Chesterfield is going to drink the Scarborough Waters, which I am sorry to think he stands so much in need of, but

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* Mrs. Tyndall, it is supposed, was a kind of *gouvernante* in the family. By "Young Master," is meant *George Colman the elder;* who, it may be conjectured, from this paragraph, and the date of the letter, was born *early* in the year 1732, if not in the year preceding. His biographers state that he was born *about* the year 1733: — his growth did little credit to the hand of Mrs. Tyndall; for the elder Colman, like old Mr. Shandy, was "*very short;*" which circumstance may elucidate one or two jocular allusions to his stature, in Lord Bath's subsequent letters.

perhaps a little quiet & regularity will sett him up again; but at present he is in a bad way.

I wish you all happiness, & am dear Sir

Your most obed^{t} humble serv^{t}

W^{m} PULTENEY.

London, June 1st 1732

From the Earl of Essex.

My Dear Colman,

As the formal letter * is now over, give me leave to write to you as from an Old freind, who is sorry he is so near you, & can't come quite to Florance to make you a Visit, I need not asure you if you come this way I shall be extreamly glad to see

* The formal letter must have been the official opening of Lord Essex's correspondence (on his arrival at Turin) with a diplomatic brother. There is, certainly, nothing "formal" in the present *morceau*; which is an admirable specimen of the utter contempt evinced by many men of rank, in his Lordship's day, for *pedantry*, in their familiar epistles.

you. I should be very much obliged to you if you would let your Steward buy me a good Parpisan cheese, and some Mortadello's, & send them to this place, and lett me know how many dozen of Florance one of your Chests Holds, & if itts a good time of Year to send me some White & Red; y^e^ White I should be glad to have of the sweet sort. and when I have your answer, I will send you word what Quantity I would have, & you will lett me know to whom my Banquer shall Pay the Monn'y. & I should be very glad to know what Prises the marble Tables made at Florance come to, & what are the Common sises you have of those with Birds & Flowers in them. I beg a thousand pardons, my Dear Colman, for giveing you all this trouble. Pray my compliments to M^rs^ Colman, & am, in a great hurrey my Dear S^r^

Most faithfully Y^rs^

ESSEX.

Turin August y^e^ 26^th^ 1732.

The British Resident at Florence was now approaching that solemn period which terminated his residence in this world. Mr. Francis Colman's declining state of health is evident, from the subsequent letter; and, in that which follows it, his DEATH is mentioned, quaintly enough, in a *Postscript!*

From Francis Colman to his Wife.

Pisa December 1732.

My Dearest Life

You know I am positively forbid writing till I find myself stronger in health, so that I will only trouble you with these few lines to wish you & the two dear little ones* a continuation of all health & happiness, & to tell you that I hope I begin to gather a little strength here, though the weather has been very cold ever since my arrival here, however I have one of the warmest & pleasantest little bed chambers that ever I saw, the Sun coming in from 15 in the morning till 23 hours at night & in the next room I have a chimney. The wild fowl is so extraordinary good here that I shall send you a taste of it next

* His children, *George* and *Caroline*. They had, each of them, as my father boasts, in a posthumous pamphlet, "the honour of a royal godfather and godmother, as children of a British Plenipotentiary," from whom they took their several names.

Thursday morning by the Procaccio which arrives at Florence that night.

I can add no more at present than that I am with the utmost affection,

My Dearest Dear

Yours for ever

F. COLMAN.

My service to Mrs Tyndall.

From Mary Colman to Mrs. Tyndall. *

Madam

MRS. COLMAN being uncertain whether she shall return to Florence to morrow or No, desires that you will take all possible Care of the Child, and notwithstanding You will be obliged to

* Who Mary Colman was, is uncertain; probably, a sister of Francis, whose death she announces.

attend the Consul who will be with you to morrow, yet she begs that you would at the same Time leave the Child in the safest hands, as likewise take care of every Thing committed to your Charge, especially *Dear* Pecce, and not leave her to Cry but to take her with you every where where you properly can; which at present concludes from

Y^rs

Mary Colman.

Pisa, Apr 20, 1733.

P. S. M^r Colman departed this Life this Morning at 35 Minutes past 7 o'Clock.

To M^rs Tyndall, Florence.

On the demise of Francis Colman, the care of his son, George, (since known as George Colman, the elder,) was undertaken by his aunt's husband, William Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath. To the merest smatterer in english History, and in times no further back than the reigns of Queen Anne, George the First, and Second, the character of William Pulteney must be very

familiar. Of his oratory, his political acrimony, his playful occasional poetry, his pleasantry in conversation, and his domestic qualities, (in which last there appears to have been a mixture of affection, generosity, and avarice,) every body, who reads, *has* read, and still may read.

Among all the obloquy heaped upon William Pulteney, on his loss of popularity, through his *acceptance of a Peerage*, (his reasons for which acceptance are given in the following pages, and will be quite new to the world,) nothing, perhaps, galled him more than the Odes of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams. Satire can laugh, while it kills reputation; and the death-wounds of ridicule inflict a double torture.

It will be seen that the earliest of the following letters were written to my father when he was a boy, at Westminster School; and Lord Bath naturally and pleasantly varies the style of his correspondence with him, according to the gradations in life of his *protegé*.

LETTERS

FROM

WILLIAM PULTENEY, EARL OF BATH,

TO

GEORGE COLMAN, THE ELDER.

Dear Colley.

I AM very unwilling to give any opinion what may be best for you to do, and therefore will referr it absolutely to Doctor Nicol *, for my own part I am inclined to think one year more in Westminster College, if you study hard, & employ your time well, may be of great service to you; but if, the Doctor thinks

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* Then head-master of Westminster School.

it any disadvantage to you, to stay only second Boy, and that you are at present fit and proper to go to the University, let him tel me which you would go to, that I may use my Interest, to get you chosen in the manner you wish to be.

I hope your promises are sincere, I am sure they are made on proper considerations, for as you have little or nothing of your own to depend on *, you must rise in the world by your merit only, & such friends as are able and willing to assist you. Among these you may always depend upon me, provided you deserve my friendship, and to encourage you to study hard, & improve yourself by all manner of ways, wherever you shall be I will tell you that I look upon you, almost like a second Son, & will never suffer you to want any thing whilst it is in my power to procure it you.

Lady Bath and I desire our services to the Doctor and M^rs^ Nicol, & hope to hear from him upon this subject, for

* His mother, however, on her decease, left him, as I have been told, six thousand pounds.

til I hear from him, I can determine nothing. It is not impossible but I may be in England before the Election *

I am

Your friend & Servant

BATH.

Paris Feby. 23d 1750 N.S.

Our services to Mrs. Coleman

To Master George Coleman at the College at
Westminster School London
Angleterre

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* This does not allude to a parliamentary Election, but to the Election of King's Scholars from Westminster School to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Coleman

I HAVE wrote to Doctor Nicols to let him know how well satisfyed I am at your remaining one year longer at Westminster School. I perceive, notwithstanding my having declared strongly my opinion for your stay, that it was in some measure agreed you should leave the School this Election, & that if Lady Bath, had not accidentally gon to England, you had been chosen this year to Cambridge. A step perhaps might have been of ill consequence to you, for the rest of your life, but I hope now you will think of studying as you ought, extreamly hard this whole year, that you may make as good a figure as ever any Boy did, at the next Election, where I shall most certainly be, to judge how you have employ'd your time, and whither you mean to entitle yourself to my friendship and assistance, both which you shall most assuredly have, if you deserve them. Consider therefore as you ought, that you have little or no fortune of your own to depend on, that I am naturally inclined to have an affection for you, and next to my own Son, look upon you, as one I ought to provide for, in the best manner I am able. but should you not

merit my love, no other tye can lay me under the least obligation to take care of you.

reflect on this be a good Boy, & take care to continue me .

Your friend & servt

BATH.

Paris May 29th 1750 N. S.

To
Mr. Coleman Kings Scholar
at Westminster
in Deans yard
Angleterre *London*

Dear Colman

I INTENDED to have wrote to you by Mr. Douglas, but forgot it; however my letter by being frank'd, will put you to no expence, and it is to acquaint you that you may draw for your Quarteridge on Lady Bath, in the manner you mention in your letter to me. I recommend to you to stick close to your Studys,

you have Parts equal to any Scheme of Life, but without daily labouring to improve them, & furnish yourself with Knowlege, the best Parts will be of little use. You know how well I intend by you, but then you must endeavour to deserve my Kindness, & render yourself an Object worthy of my Care and Attention.

I am

Your friend & servt

BATH.

London Febr 29th 1752.

To
Mr. George Colman, Student*
of Xt. Church
in
Oxford.
Free
Bath.

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* The precise time of his being admitted a Member of the University at Oxford, is ascertained by the following Certificate of his Matriculation:

Oxoniæ Junij 5to. Anno Domini 1751.

Quo die comparuit coram me Georgius Colman Ox. Æd. Xti Arm. fil. subscripsit Articulis Fidei & Religionis; & juramentum suscepit de agnoscendâ supremâ Regiæ Majestatis potestate; & de observandis Statutis, Privelegiis, & Consuetudinibus hujus Universitatis. ST. NIBLETT, *V. C. Dep.*

D^r Colman

Two or three days ago I had your letter, and am glad to hear you got well again to Oxford, where I hope you will return to your Studys with double diligence, in consideration of the little interruption your London journey gave to them.

I have got from M^r. Guidott, a List of such Law Books as will be proper for the beginning of your Studys, but as you are not to begin those, till you have finished at the University, it is needless to purchase those Books, till you return to Town, unless you can find some of them in Booksellers Shops, of good Editions, and to be sold cheap. Lay by the List, till your return to London.

I am

Your good friend

BATH.

London 12^th Feb^r 1754.

To
M^r. George Colman
of Christ Church College
Oxford.

Free
Bath

Dear Colman

I HOPE you have employ'd the long time you have now been without interruption at Oxford, usefully, and as you ought to do. You must consider that you have nothing to depend upon, for your future maintenance, but your parts, and your Industry. apply yourself therefore strictly to your Studys, and improve those Talents God Almighty has given you, in such a manner, as to enable you to make a figure in the station you shall be placed. You know that you have been for some time entered in the Society of Lincolns Inn, where you shall in about a year or more come to reside, and Study the Law. Keep M^r^. Murray the Sollicitor Gen^l^ * always in your Eye, and let him be the Example you propose to follow, perhaps to exceed. I propose you shall take your Batchelor's degree at Oxford, then come to Lincolns Inn, but not quit the College, til you are obliged to do it. but continue taking your other degrees in the University. At present I would have you come to Town for the X^t^mas Holydays, you stay w^th^ me in my House for about three weeks, but not be at

* Afterwards Attorney General, then Lord Mansfield, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and created an earl, in 1776.

your Mama's where you have opportunitys of stroling idly about the Town, wherever your inclination may lead you, not that you shall be unreasonably confined at home, but have liberty now and then to visit your favourite play Houses, as well as your friends and acquaintances. If it be necessary you should acquaint your Tuteur, or the Sub Dean of the College, for leave to come to London, you may do it in my name, or shew them my letter.

Your humble servant

BATH.

You may sett out in three or four days.

London 20th Janr 1755.

Dr Colman,

ABOUT three weeks or a month ago, you wrote to Lady Bath, desiring to come to Town for the Christmas Holidays, to this letter, I suppose she then sent you an answer, and I am now going to explain more fully to you both our meanings.

Our intention is, to give you such an Education, as, with the parts you have, may enable you to get your own Living, and hereafter

make a figure in the world; But this must be done (and can be done no other way) by hard Study, and constant application; You must not think of trifling away any of your time in vain and idle amusements, such as those can afford, who are born to Estates, Your Subsistance must be got by toil and drudgery in the Profession you have chosen; But then, let me tell you, you will enjoy every shilling so got with much greater satisfaction; Let me place Mr. Murray the present Attorney General before your eyes, look stedfastly towards him, and see what a rapid progress he hath made towards wealth and great reputation. You have as good parts, and are as able to pursue his steps if you will exert the same diligence, all I can do is to furnish the means, and give you such assistance as may be necessary by money and good advice. Think not therefore of losing an hour's time from your studys, whilst you are at Oxford, but employ them in such occupations, as may be proper for your future Profession I mean in a Classical way whilst you are at the University, such as reading often, and sometimes translating parts of Demosthenes or Tully's Orations and such like exercises, and when you have taken your Batchelor's Degree, I promise to take you from the University, and place you in some Chambers in Lincolns Inn, of which Society you have already been some time a Member; When you are there I tell you before hand, that I will have you closely watch'd, and be constantly inform'd how you employ

your time; I must have no running to Playhouses or other Places of publick diversion, but your whole time must be given up to attend the Courts in Westminster-hall during their Sittings in a morning, and your Evenings must be employ'd at home at your own Chambers, in assiduous application and Study, till you have fitted yourself to make a figure at the Ba

I left it to your own Election what Profession you would be of, you chose being a Lawyer, and I approv'd your choice, the beginnings of all things are somewhat hard, and to shine in this Profession, requires vast application; Think therefore of what I have said, and make a grateful return to me for the Expenses I am at and what I design further to do for you, and take this advice from

Your sincere friend & servant

BATH.

To
Mr. George Colman
Student of Christ Church
Oxford
Free
Bath

Dear Colman

As you have now taken your Batchelor's degree in the University, it may be time for you to come to London, to apply more particularly to that Study, which is to become Your profession and your Livelihood, I therefore recommend to you, when you are at Lincolns-Inn, where you have been enter'd for some years, and where I have now taken you Chambers, that you study hard in the Evenings, and attend diligently the Courts of Westminster Hall in the mornings, constantly informing yourself from friends and from Books, of all the proper ways to Signalize yourself in your profession. The Chambers which I have taken for you, are but small, but fitting enough for the present, they are up one pair of Stairs, and I chose them so rather than upon the Ground floor, which is always damp, there are four small rooms, in which there are some Presses and Shelves for your Books, which you will bring with you from Oxford, and to which we will add such further Law Books as may be necessary.

At first I Suppose for a few days you must lye at your Mother's, till we can get a Bed, Chairs and such other things to furnish your Chambers; When you grow a man of Eminence in

your Profession, you may get into a better Apartment, if you think fit, but that must be your own doing; I furnish you only with the means of rising, and recommend to you, never to stop in your Career, till yuo have got to the Head of the Law.

I tell you before hand, that I shall have you closely watch'd, that you do not idle away your time, in running to Playhouses and such other diversions, as I know you are fond of; Such amusements will not agree with your circumstances, who are by Industry to get your own Livelihood. Revolve what I have now said to you often in your mind, and resolve to do as I have directed you; You may then come to Town as soon as you please, advertising your Mother, whom I never see, of the day your propose to be with her.

If there be any little matters to pay at the University, you may draw upon Lady Bath or me for the money; Should you have a mind to keep your name upon the College Books, till you have taken your Master's Degres in the University, let me know what it will cost, tho' I do not see it can be of any great use to you.

I am

Yours

Bath.

London 27th March 1755.

Send me word likewise what day you propose to be in Town, because upon further thoughts, I believe it will be more convenient for you to lye, and be with me, till we see you settl'd at Lincoln's Inn, Lady Bath will take care to get you a bed ready.

To
Mr George Colman
Student at Christ Church
Oxford
Free
Bath

THE two following Letters, from Lady Bath, being written to her "Dear Nep," (as she elegantly abbreviates her nephew,) at her Lord's request, they are inserted here: — they contain the Peer's general principles of advice, not improved by passing through the strainers of his Countess. We hear of cancelling obligations by the manner of conferring them; and, although her Ladyship breathes regard, there is something in the air of her protection rather chilling to gratitude.

"I believe," says the celebrated Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, speaking of Lord Bath, "his own disposition was naturally compassionate and generous; but his unfortunate connexion with a wife of a very contrary disposition, and to whom he was too good-naturedly compliant, had checked the tendency of his own heart, and induced a fatal habit, which he must find it difficult to alter at so advanced an age."

Piccadilly March

Dear Nep. I rec[d] your letter yesterday, and Lord Bath had one likewise from you sometime ago, He desires me to write the answer for us both & has told me in part what I shou[d] say, It is this, That whilst you do well, and endeavour to improve yourself as you ought, that you may depend on having all proper and reasonable assistance from us.

We shall think now, soon, of sending for you from Oxford, to place you in Lincolns Inn, where my Lord has taken care to have you enter'd some time ago. there you must study hard, attend the Courts of Westminster that constantly, and soon render yourself able to get your own Livelihood, besides our assistance.

As for your Quarteridge It shall be ready when Ever you send for it, and likewise the four Guineas, for your Bach-rs degree, and the sixteen, as you say is usual to give your Tutor, tho' neither My Lord nor Dor Newton remembers such a Custom, but Lord B—h apprehends it is y[t] you have not paid your Tutor quart—ly ever since you have been in College, which he says

you ought to have done out of your Allowance, and now the whole amounts to sixteen Guin-y at the rate of four a year. However it be the money shall be ready when you draw for it, and you may be sure of being deny'd nothing, whilst we think, and are persuaded you may deserve it.

You to be sure will acquaint Lord Bath before you quit the univer-ty and take his Advice & directions in Every thing.

I am most
sincerely & affectionately
Yr friend &c

Bath.

London July ye 15th

Dear Nephew

I thank you for your letter dated the 12th The assurances you give me that you are, & will continue to be Assiduous in the business you are about gives me great Satisfaction, your own good sense will inform you better than I am able to do, how necessary it is, to lay in a good Stock of Learning, (now is your Time) & be assur'd the brightest parts will make no figure in

the great World, without that, which must be got by Study and great Application.

I wish you health, & you may rely upon my Friendship, & be assur'd, I shall do every thing in my power to advance you. for I am most affectionately yours

A Bath

Lord Bath, & Pulteney, are at Scarborough.
I have never seen your Mother since I return'd last to England.

Dear Coley

I had some time ago your Lincolns Inn Letter, but without a syllable of news from Searles, or a word even of speculative Politics from Chancery Lane. Must I from hence inform you what is doing in your own Body? why I can tell you that Mr. Ord, is to be made Chief Baron in Scotland, & some other Promotions of a high nature, that at present shall be a Secret. I can assure you; that I shall be a little angry, if you do not send me any pamphlet yt comes out, that bears the least character; if they are too bulky to put into one Cover, split them, and send them in a couple, or three. I hope your encreased Revenue, will

now enable you to add a Cotelet to your dinner, and a couple of oysters more to your Supper, but I Charge you to throw none of it away idly, in running after Plays, which I know is your favorite diversion; Apply yourself diligently to your Studys, and endeavour to rise in your Profession faster than any body ever did before you; It was said of Doctor Barrow who was a great Mathematician, when he was Head of Trinity College in Cambridge, that speaking once of Sir Isaac Newton who was an under graduate, He said, I have a young Man under me who Knows more of Mathematics than I do, or than any body else does. Now I would have my Lord Chancellor say the same thing of you, when he is sitting in Lincolns Inn Hall, that he has a Young Man, in the very same quadrangle where he is sitting, who is a rising Genius, & will soon out strip them all. and become a second Bacon.

Lady Bath sends you her service &

I am

Yours Bath

Bath Oct^{r} 11th 1755.

To
Mr George Colman at his
Chambers
in
Lincolns Inn
London
Free
Bath.

Dear Coley

I SUPPOSE you had such a vast deal of business on the Circuit, and got so much money on it, that you had no time to loose in writing letters. We have had but two from you since you left us, & those extreamly short, one of them as short as yourself, and t'other as a Shrewsbury Cake. You must know that I expected a circumstantial and historical relation of every thing that happened on the Circuit, how many Causes you carried, by dint of learning and ingenuity, to the surprise of the two stupid Sages of the Law, and to the astonishment of all the heavy Stagers of the Circuit. I should have been glad to have heard likewise, of all the misfortunes which happened to you on the Road, how many shirts and other things your awkward Footboy lost you in your Journey, & how much leather you lost, by your lame hackney horse; M^r. Douglas is loosing his money here at Lottery Tickets, but perhaps he may get a rich Wife, by it at last. He has won many an old Woman's heart here, by an excellent Sermon he preach'd, but I want to have him, by his gallantry, get a young one w^th ten thousand p^ds. Lord Pulteney came to us yesterday, and stays about a week, soon after which, We are in expectation of you, to lavish away some of that money you got so plentifully, and with so much ease in your legal peregrination.

The first thing an honest man has to do, is to pay his just debts, & consequently I shall have my Twenty Guineas refunded, with what Interest you think fit. I hear you often dined w^th^ the Sheriff & with the Judges, but you will eat more luxuriously with us, for we have Venison & whit-Ears at every meal. Lady Bath will be glad to see you, and so, you may be sure shall I, Your most affectionate friend BATH

Tunbridge Wells July y^e^ 29^th^ 1758. We had very bad weather, and abundance of rain, I hope it has not been general for the sake of the Corn.

Dear Coley

I THANK you for your letter, and am glad to hear of your notable success at Oxford. you say you got two Guineas, by saving two Men from hanging. I wish you was to have two guineas a piece for every Man in Oxford that deserves to be hanged, and then the University would be of some use to you. At Worcester I doubt you will get but little, but get acquainted

with 2 or 3 Roguish Attorneys, & they will lay you in a stock of Causes for next Assizes, when you are to be no longer at my Expense. M^rs. Lake Miss Seare, Lord Pulteney and M^r. Douglas drank your health on Sunday last and wished to convey you a few Bottles of the Claret we drank it in. This letter I direct to Shrewsbury which is the surest place to find you in. If you are concerned in the Tryal of any Rape the Ladys desire you would send a minute and circumstantial account of all that passed at it, and what you (*hiatus*) In the House of Lords we had a debate about bringing in Irish Cattle. The Duke of Newcastle made use of this Expression [*hiatus* *] to the Soldiers. Upon which some Wag, (for the House was vastly crowded) dropd the following Epigram

Since Beef adds more Courage to Soldiers in Battle
I consent to the bringing in Irish Cattle.
But add then a Clause to the Bill, which annuls
All free Importation of *Irish Bulls.*

* This *hiatus* is not *valdè deflendus*; for, from the trace of a letter or two in the obliterated manuscript, and from the context of the epigram which follows, it is to be conjectured that the Duke of Newcastle's expression was, "Beef gives additional courage to the Soldiers," — or words to that effect. The *wag* who dropped the epigram was, most probably, Lord Bath.

I hope the two Horses, as well as the Master and the Man, hold out well and will all return to Town again in good health and flesh; If you bring back with you all the money you pick up on the road, no matter what way, your horse will find you more weighty on your return, than in your setting out Adieu D^r^ Coleman dont fail to write to me as often as you can for I wish you very well & am sincerely

Y^rs^ BATH.

London March 23^d^ 1759

To
Mr Coleman upon the Oxford
Circuit at Shrewsbury
Free *Shropshire*
Bath

Dear Coley

I HAVE had two letters from you, to which I would sooner have returned an Answer, but that you have been so much upon the Ramble, that it was uncertain where to catch you whether picking up money on the road, or distributing Justice from the Bench. I fancy the likelyest place to meet you, is in Lincolns

Inn, to which I direct this, to invite you to Tunbridge, when all your Legal Affairs are finished. Doctor Bartholomew is here and expects you, but I cannot say there are many here, of your female Acquaintance, perhaps Dr Douglas may spare you a Lady or two, for he has abundance that belong to him, and to his Lottery Table. We have had the hottest weather I ever felt, which I believe (tho' very troublesome) to us all, is of great use, to us Water drinkers, at least I am sure they agree very well wth me, & have done me much service. Come to us when you please, you will find the Room ready, Excellent Soopes every day at dinner, & most admirable fish, fresh from the Salt-Sea. Adieu

Yrs

BATH

Tunbridge Wells Augt 6th 1761

To
George Colman Esqr at
his Chambers in
Lincolns Inn
London
(*Free, Bath*)

Dear Colly,

I THANK you for your letter, and I have had one likewise from Miss Seare, in answer to that which you gave her from me. I find she does not think of coming to Town, til towards the Spring; I suppose you dance every Ball night Country Dances w^th^ his R. H. the Duke of York, why do you not try to be appointed his Attorney General. He has I hear made Moisy his Physician. Are you in pursuit of any other more material business, such as following any fine Woman, with a fortune of 100,000? or do you design to return to us again, just as wise, and witty as you went, with only a little less money in your Pocket. Lord Pulteney wants much to see you and hopes you may be grown, a little, since he left you. We are all pleased w^th^ the Genius *, we suppose you wrote it on the Road, & sent it to Town; it is extreamly pretty, and well writ. You have no

* A Series of Essays under the title of the *Genius*, written by the elder Colman, appeared in the St. James's Chronicle; — they were discontinued after the fifteenth number.

doubt heard of the rude and foulmouthed Attack made on Mr Pitt in the House of Commons, by one Col. Barry, whom all the world blames most extreamly, so that I suppose the Gentleman will be muzzled for the future. Doctor Douglas sends you his Compliments, Lord Pulteney, & Lady Mary Carr, who are just going to sitt down to dinner with me, send their services, & I am

Dear Coley

Yours affectionately

BATH.

Decr 18th 1761

To George Colman Esqr at
Bath

(*Frèe, Bath*)

Dear Coley,

WHY are you so suspicious of my being angry with you? I can assure you, that the only reason why I did not take you with me, was, because I apprehended your stay in London, might be ab-

solutely necessary with regard to Lord P's * affairs, as it was not til the morning we sett out, quite determined, whether we were to proceed by Arbitration, or by your proving of the Will. I wish now, that you had been with us; the Waters which have done us all much good, might have been of use to you likewise, after your Illness, and you would have had an opportunity, of making acquaintance with a vast number of Princes, and Princesses, with whom you might have play'd at Whist every night, for two pence a Corner. Dr Douglas has struck up a great Intimacy with the Bishop of Augsburgh, he often dines with him, and constantly swallows a large Quantity of Toká, as it agrees greatly wth the Spá Waters. We have here at least an hundred English Lords Gentlemen and Ladys; Balls now and then; a Play three times week; wth a tolerable sett of Strollers, that do pretty well in Comedy, but make wretched work, with a french Tragedy. I suppose you are often at Hampton, make my Compliments to Mr, & Mrs Garrick, I should have said my Love to her, but whisper that only in her Ear, for he must know nothing of the matter. I was not a very dangerous Man when I left

* *Viscount Pulteney*, only son to the Earl of Bath; — he died on the 16th of January, 1763; — his death was most severely felt by his father.

England, but the Waters are rejuvenescent. and bid him beware of me when I return, for I shall be quite another Creature. If Churchils Poem upon Hogarth is worth the Postage, send it me, but if it be long, it will cost a huge Summe, and then perhaps you may hear of somebody coming this way, that may be willing to bring it, & Witt pays no Duty, either on importation, or exportation. * General Seabright brought me two Pamphlets, one of which I think well writ it is call'd the Constitution asserted, printed for Beckett, pray tell me who was the Author. I am told that Wilkes call'd t'other day at my House, & asked how I did? pray when you see him, tell him I am pretty well, but very angry with him, for kindling such a flame in our poor Country, which God knows, when it will be extinguished. Our poor good King deserves better usage. Send me all the Chit

* Lord Bath's parsimony, in trifling matters, was, sometimes, laughable. I had the following anecdote from my father: — In a rural lane, through which the noble Earl often passed, in his carriage, a gate was placed across the road, which was opened for travellers by an ancient female. His lordship, one day, touched by the appearance of the old woman, gave the word to halt; — the out-riders echoed the order, — the coachman pulled up, — the cavalcade stood still; — and William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, stretching forth his hand from his Coach-and-Four, bedecked with coronets, threw to the venerable object of his bounty —— *a half-penny!*

Chat news you can pick up, whether in Lincolns Inn, in Grub Street, or St. James's; let it be private Scandal, or Political falshoods, any thing will amuse us, at this distance and do no manner of harm, for we shall have forgot it all, before our return.

I have wrote you a long letter, considering that I have this morning, drank eight large Glasses of Water, & as I find my Head begins to ake, I will take my leave, assuring you that I am

Your true friend &
humble Servan.

BATH

Spa July y^e^ 13^th^ 1763.

To
Mr. Colman at Lord Baths
House in
Piccadilly
London
Angleterre

Shrewsbury May y^e^ 21^st^ 1764

Dear Coley

I THANK you for your letter, and the enclosed Poem in it, which is in my Opinion the severest, & the best of all Ch—ls *, works; He has a great Genius, & is an Excellent Poet, there are, to be sure, some as fine Lines, as ever were writ, & some as low prosaick Trash as ever came from Grub street. One may plainly see that all his Works, are what the french call, *Pieces rapporté*. He has always a vast number of loose Verses, lying by him, which he can bring into any Poem, that he wants to enlarge to the Price of half a Crown, & so stickes them in, as he wants them. I cannot however in the main, approve of such abominable abuse. You know I never was famous for great partiality to Ministers, I am acquainted with very few who are at present such, & I never would be one my self, tho' often offered it. from these considerations you may be sure; that it is not any fondness of mine for great Men, that makes me dislike this Poem, but really it is so scandalously abusive, & scurrilous, that no one who has the least decency can approve such Billingsgate stuff, running *a muck*, as Pope calls it at once upon all mankind. I wish you had come down with us instead

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* *Churchill's.*

of Peele, but our Whist party would have been spoiled by Remends Illness, who has been in some danger from a violent Fever. On Monday next we remove from hence & go to Wolverhampton.

I am

Yours

BATH.

A Monsieur
Monsieur Colman
a L'hotel de Modene
Rue de Jacob Fauxbourg S^t Germains —
a Paris

Dear Coley,

I HAVE sent you two of the Prints you saw yesterday; pray present one of them, in my name, and with my humble service to M^rs Garrick,* and let her know, if she will knock to pieces any Old deal Box, and make a kind of a frame and hang the

* It is whimsical to observe Lord Bath's acquiescence in his Protegé's theatrical connexions. All the Earl's repeated admonitions to *Coley*, "not to throw away his money and time idly, in running after plays, of which he knew he was fond," but to stick to the Law, and follow the steps of the Attorney General, end in a request to

Print up, in any Chamber that belongs to her, it will be doing me, and the Picture, more honour than either deserve. fix a day, when Garrick & you will come & dine with

Your humble

Servant

To
Mr. Colman.

BATH.

The letters from Lord Bath are, here, brought to a period; and the subjoined explanation of his motives for quitting the House of Commons, and accepting an Earldom, is inserted as a curiosity. The MS. is in my father's hand-writing.

" ON Wednesday October the Fourth, 1756, I overheard the following Conversation between L^d^ Bath & M^r^ Hooke, Author of the Roman History, in the Parlour at Isleworth. When I came

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procure his Lordship the *honour* that a Print (probably his own portrait) may be hung up by *Mrs. Garrick*. The Elder Colman dedicated his Play of the *Jealous Wife* to his patron, in the year 1761, about three years before the present letter appears to have been written. All this refutes the report, which obtained general belief, that he forfeited Lord Bath's affection and favour, through his persuit of the Drama.

into the room I found that they were conversing on the Subject of His Lordship's quitting the House of Commons. As this was a subject on which I had never heard L^d^ Bath ever utter a single syllable before, I listened with great attention, & believe that I remember most of what was said, nearly in the very words, but am sure that I have not made the least addition, or any alteration in the Circumstances.

" Upon my first entrance into the Room, L^d^ Bath was just closing an Account of a Conversation between himself and The King, by which it appeared that the Partizans in the Opposition had had some differences among themselves. Upon this occasion His Majesty made use of these words to L^d^ Bath. " As soon as " I found you were at variance among yourselves, I saw that I " had *Two Shops to deal with*, and I rather chose to come to " you, because I knew that your aim was only directed against " my Minister, but I did not know but the Duke of Argyle " wanted to be King Himself." These words, it was agreed both by L^d^ Bath & M^r^ Hooke were suggested to His Majesty by Sir Rob^t^ Walpole.

" M^r^ Hooke then said that he had always looked upon his Lordship's conduct in that affair as a mystery, and so did most other people, who cried, " It is strange that Will Pulteney should " be taken off by a Peerage, when we all know that he might

" have had one, whenever he would, for many years before." But that he had conversed with some of his Lordship's friends, who, though they also looked on his conduct as a mystery, still believed that he had good and honest reasons for what he did.

" His Lordship replied that he certainly had, that there were several curious Anecdotes relating to that affair; and some particulars known to no soul living except the King & himself; that he had never made any minutes of those transactions, but, that he could easily recollect all the principal circumstances; which he would at times endeavour to do, in hopes that Mr Hooke, as he had a fine pen, would, if he survived his Lordship, work up those materials into a sort of History of this affair; that this he was desirous of having done for the sake of truth, and therefore could wish that these particulars might be made public, while some of the parties concerned were yet living and unable to deny their authenticity; that a regard to Truth, & the furnishing materials for genuine History was his chief motive, for that, as to his own character, conscious of his integrity, he had never said so much as he had now mentioned to any one before, or taken the least pains to vindicate himself. He then told the following story. When it appeared that Ld Bath, then Mr Pulteney, was at the head of the House of Commons, that no supplies could be raised, no business carried on, & that Sr Robert Walpole was in imminent danger, Mr Pulteney received a Letter from

the Duke of Newcastle, signifying that "his Grace had a mes-
"sage to deliver to him from the King, & desired that Mr Pul-
"teney would meet him [appointing that or some other
"particular evening] at eight o'clock at Mr Stone's in the Privy
"Garden." To this Letter Mr Pulteney returned an answer to this effect: "that he was very ready to receive any message
"from The King, but that he absolutely refused to receive
"any such message by meeting his Grace by *stealth*, at his
"*Under Secretary's*, *in the dark*: that if the Duke had any
"thing to say to him from His Majesty, his Grace must
"come to him at *his own house*, by *daylight*, in sight of all
"his servants. He further desired the Duke not to impute this
"behaviour to pride, for that it was necessary for a person at
"the head of a party to manage his reputation in this manner."
To this the Duke replied to this purpose: "that he thought Mr
"Pulteney was entirely in the right in using so much delicacy
"and precaution; that he would wait on him at his own house,
"in the manner he prescribed, accompanied by Lord Chancel-
"lor." This produced a further answer from Mr Pulteney, signifying: "that in order to put himself on an equality with his
"Grace, who proposed bringing the Chancellor, he also thought
"proper to call in an aid on his side, *viz.* Lord Granville." In consequence of these Letters, the Duke of Newcastle and Ld Chancellor came to gether to Mr Pulteney's, and found him, expecting their arrival, in company with Ld Granville. The Duke of

Newcastle then told Mr Pulteney, that he had a message to him from The King, which was to desire "that Mr Pulteney would ac- "cept of being at the head of the Treasury, and the nomination of "those other persons whom he would have put into power; & "that, as Sr Robert Walpole found it expedient to retire, that "Mr Pulteney would promise to preserve him from persecution." This was the substance of what was said by the Duke of Newcastle, to which Mr Pulteney made answer to the following effect: "That he utterly disclaimed all aiming at Power, that he would "accept of no places, that what he aimed at was not merely a "change of men, but measures also, and that he would never "come in to carry on the same system of corruption: That as "to promising His Majesty to secure Sr Robert Walpole, he "neither would, nor could, make any such promise: That if his "Grace would read Cardinal De Retz he would find, that *a "Party was like a Serpent, that the* TAIL *pushed on the* HEAD; so "that if he promised, he should engage for more than he was "able to perform: That, however, he was no bloodthirsty man, "that he had no sanguinary views, & that he wished Sr Robt "might be able to escape by his innocence, & the rather, because "he had once incautiously said in the House of Commons, that "*he would persue Sr Robt to his* DESTRUCTION. This had been con- "sidered by many as a very cruel speech, but all he meant by it "was the *destruction* of Sr Robt as a minister, not as a man; he "meant a *destruction* of his power not of his person. But, in

" short, as to a promise, for the reasons above, he could make " none, so that if any such promise was expected, his Grace's " treaty with him must here break off, before it was begun." The Duke then complained that he was dry, and some wine being called for, M^r Pulteney filled out a glass, and told his Grace with a smile " that he would drink to him in the words " of Brutus.

" *If we should meet again, 'tis well,*
If not, why then this parting was well made."

This story ended, L^d Bath observed that during this conference and some others on the same occasion, L^d Chancellor did not say a word; nor L^d Granville, till he was nominated by him to be put in as Secretary of State. Just at this time dinner came in, & interrupted the conversation. After dinner this conversation was resumed, & took a different turn, but had more the air of general chat, in the course of which L^d Bath said " that it " was he who nominated Lord Winchelsea to be placed at the " head of the Admiralty; a secret which he had never men- " tioned to any body before, & which Lord Winchelsea him- " self was not acquainted with to this day, but imagined that he " was brought in by Lord Granville. That, after he had brought " in Lord Granville, he wrote to his Lordship, when abroad " with the King, in the last war, to inform him that the high " favour in which he stood with the King had created many jea-

" lousies in the rest of the ministry, who would certainly get him " out, if he relied solely on the favour of the King, & did not " take care to secure himself by forming proper connections and " dependences." To this Letter he received an answer from Lord Granville, telling him " that he made no doubt of standing " his ground by being so high in his Majesty's favour, that he had " even shewed L^d^ Bath's letter to the King, who told him upon " the occasion that, He knew indeed that several little plots " were formed against him, but that He would keep his Lordship " in, in spite of their teeth. In about a fortnight after their " return from abroad, he was turned out."

' Among many other particulars which fell from Lord Bath on this occasion, & which from the confusion and irregularity of the conversation I cannot well recollect, I particularly remember the following. " When things began to draw to a Crisis, and the " parties in the Opposition saw themselves soon likely to come " in, they became at variance with each other concerning who " should have the best places. ' This it was that occasioned " that speech of the King's mentioned in the beginning of " this account, and destroyed, said L^d^ Bath, that glorious " scheme which I had laid of bringing about a reconciliation in " the Royal Family on a proper foot, & retiring with honour " myself. When I found (continued he) what they were driving

" at, I went to the Prince of Wales, and first asked him whether
" the others in the Opposition had not been there before me.
" The Prince frankly owned that they had been with him. I
" then told him that I found that their views were directed to
" the securing rich preferments to themselves, — but that my
" sole aim was to reconcile His Royal Highness to the King on
" a proper foot, & to make him appear in a right light as
" Prince of Wales. To convince him of this, I only begged to
" come alone, & confront all the rest in His Royal Highness's
" presence; upon which the Prince appointed a meeting at his
" House in Pall Mall, at eight o'clock that evening. I went ac-
" cordingly, and found them there before me, *viz.*, The Duke of
" Argyle, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Gower, Lord Cobham, &
" Lord Bathurst. Each of these spoke in his turn, and I an-
" swered each successively. When we had all spoken, The Prince
" said that he thought M^r. Pulteney acted from the best motives,
" & delivered it as his resolution that he would go in with
" him. This was so sore a mortification to the Duke of Argyle
" that it is thought to have been the occasion of his death."

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS

TO

GEORGE COLMAN, THE ELDER.

From John Wilkes.

Naples March 25. 1765.

My dear Sir,

I HAD your most friendly letter by Monsieur de Beaumont, but I have not been able before this to write to you, Your idea was so closely join'd with that of poor Churchill, that for a long time I sought to avoid it, and tho' it return'd upon me in my late pursuits, I cou'd not cherish it, as I us'd to do. My grief began a little to abate, when the additional shock of Lloyd's † death

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* The politicks, the writings, the wit, the conviviality, the debauchery, of John Wilkes, — all the striking features of his life, character, and even of his face, — are notorious.

† The poet, contemporary with Churchill.

almost overset me. I have try'd ever since by journeys, and a variety of company, to recover the even tone of my mind, but I am at times more melancholy than it is almost possible for you to conceive a man of so good animal spirits to be.

I had fully open'd my mind to Lloyd as to my idea of the second volume of our friend's Works, and he had undertaken to write a short preface, and to correct the press. I beg'd him likewise to announce the edition I had projected at our dear Churchill's desire. I wish you would take upon yourself the publication of the second volume, and tell the world how you lov'd the man, as well as honour'd the poet. If you think worth while to enquire for my letters to Lloyd, you will find in them a variety of hints, which perhaps may be of use. You must give me leave, in my own edition, to take the opportunity of the notes on the *Rosciad*, to speak of you not only as an author, who does my country honour, but as a friend too, who will ever be dear to me.

I have taken a house in a very pleasant situation, which commands this town, and the finest bay in the world. I shall be there in a few days, and mean to give myself entirely to our friend's Works, and to my *History of England*. I wish to equal the dignity of Livy. I am sure the greatness

and majesty of our nation demand an historian equal to him.

I live much retired, in the bosom of philosophy, [*hiatus*] not in the least peevish, nor angry at the world. I live thus retir'd meerly to attend to what I take to be my present business, and I form no idle resolutions de fugâ sœculi et contemptu mundi. My warmest wishes follow you and a few more. I only regret that my ill stars will not let me be in the same degree of latitude with you. I wou'd soon make it the same place too.

The foreign gazettes are very impertinently sending mè into the service of the King of Prussia, or Sardinia, or I know not what republicks. I hope my friends do me more justice at home, and think of me, as I do of myself, ever in the Service of England, and for my life unalienably attach'd to my native country. The most unjust and cruel persecutions, the most unmerited outlawries, shall never warp my allegiance.

I long for your *Terence*, and the moment it is printed I hope you will order Becket to send it to me. The Jesuit's edition,

which I wish'd to have got for you, was sold the day before to the Duke de Choiseul.

I hope Lloyd's works will be reprinted in twelves. Such an edition would certainly succeed. He was indeed a very pretty poet, as well as a very amiable man. I find he had subject of just indignation against *Thornton*: so had *Churchill*. I am a little inclin'd to revenge both their quarrels. Our dear friend wish'd I would. What is your opinion? If you wish him to be sav'd, he will owe his salvation only to you. All this is quite between ourselves.

I have desir'd M^r^ Becket to send me what is most valuable from the English Press, and I beg you to give him directions from time to time.

I am, with very great truth and regard,
my dear Sir,
Your affectionate friend and
most humble Servant,
JOHN WILKES.

To
*George Colman, Esq^r^*
at M^r^ Becket's
Bookseller near Surry Street
in the Strand
inghilterra *London*

From R. Shepherd.

Sir

Your Favour was sent to me to this Place; having first laid some Time in Duke Street, or you would have received an earlier Answer to your Enquiries concerning the Genuineness of Churchill's Sermons. He used laughingly to say, they were none of his: whose they were, the Public if they could might find out. I alway suspected them to have been Compilations; & Compilations of his Father's: for he himself I am persuaded would not have submitted to that kind of Drudgery; they would either have been his own, or Transcripts, had they been entirely from his own Desk: & accordingly some of them have been said to be Transcripts from a D^r^ Stevenson; but I have never given myself the Trouble to enquire minutely into the Truth of such a Report. If I should in future have an Opportunity of looking into such an Author, your Enquiry will induce me not to pass it by.

Though you evaded my Suggestion, the good Humour with which you took it hath tempted me to go a Step farther, & propose

to you a Subject. As you hold a Pen in utrumq. paratam, equally-successful in Prose & Verse: a new Boëthius, on the Consolation of *Christianity*, would I conceive form not only a useful, but a pleasing Work. I have often thought of it myself: but had much rather see it in your Hand for a hundred Reasons.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

R Shepherd

Brighthelmston
Sept^r 27.

To
George Colman Esq
Richmond
Surry

*From Christopher Smart.**

S^{t} James's Park next door
to the Cockpit Febry y^{e} 27th 1766.

Sir,

I FIND myself reduced by the necessity of the case again to tax such of my friends as are disposed to do me the honour of their names

I am with much respect

Your obliged Servant

CHRISTOPHER SMART.

I observe from the conversation in general on your late performance, that either your benevolence has won you more affection, or your wit commanded more applause (both I suppose) than that of any person in my memory.

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* *Christopher Smart* was a poet of some celebrity; — his lighter poems are his best. He was engaged in a variety of publications: — at one period of his life, he was confined for madness, and he died a prisoner for debt. A collection of his poetical pieces was published in the year 1791, with some memoirs of his life prefixed to them. An account of him is, also, given in Chalmers's General Biographical Dictionary. The *performance*, to which the postscript alludes, must have been the Comedy of the *Clandestine Marriage*, written, jointly, by my father and Garrick.

*From Voltaire.**

au Chateau de ferney par genêve
15° 9bre 1768.

Si je pourrais écrire de ma main, Monsieur, je prendrais la liberté de vous remercier en anglais du present que vous me faittes de vos charmantes comédies ; et si j'étais jeune je viendrais les voir jouer à Londres.

* This letter, though in the hand-writing of an amanuensis, is apparently subscribed by *Voltaire* himself. It was written, I suppose, on the occasion of my father having presented to him (with his other Dramas) the Play of the *English Merchant*, founded on Voltaire's comedy of "*L'Ecossaise.*" The celebrated and lively Frenchman has dictated his present epistle with his usual *tournure*, and with his vanity floating on the surface. He cannot help informing the Author who has built upon his ground-work of the great success of his *own* play; of its having been (though only composed for his private amusement) acted in all the theatres of Europe, from Petersburg to Bruxelles; and of the admirable portrait he has drawn in it, of an original whom he never saw.

The phrase of "FURIEUSEMENT *embelli*" is somewhat equivocal; and looks a little like a sneer, couched in the compliments bestowed upon the English poet.

Vous avez furieusement embelli l'Ecossaise que vous avez donnée sous le nom de fréeport, qui est en effet le meilleur personnage de la piéce. vous avez fait ce que je n'ai osé faire, vous punissez votre fréron à la fin de la Comedie. j'avais quelque répugnance à faire paraître plus longtems ce polisson sur le théatre ; mais vous êtes un meilleur Sherif que moi. vous voulez que justice soit rendue ; et vous avez raison.

Lorsque je m'amusai à composer cette petite Comédie pour la faire representer sur mon théatre à ferney, nôtre société d'acteurs et d'actrices, me conseilla de mettre ce fréron Sur la Scene, comme un personnage dont il n'y avoit point encor d'exemple. je ne le connais point, je ne l'ai vu, mais on m'a dit que je l'avais peint trait pour trait.

Lorsqu'on joua depuis cette piece à Paris, ce croquant était à la premiére representation ; il fut reconnu des les premieres lignes ; on ne cessa de battre des mains, de le huer, et de le bafouer ; et tout le public à la fin de la piece le reconduisit hors de la Salle avec des éclats de rire. il a eu l'avantage d'être joué et berné sur tous les théatres de l'Europe depuis Petersbourg jusqu' à Bruxelles. il est bon de nettoier quelquefois le temple des muses de ses araignées. il me parait que vous avez aussi vos frérons à Londres ; mais il ne sont pas si plats que les nôtres.

Continuez Monsieur à enrichir le public de vos très agréables ouvrages. J'ai l'honneur d'être avec toute l'estime que vous meritez,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très
obéissant Serviteur
VOLTAIRE gentilhomme
ord^re^ de la chambre du Roy

À Monsieur
Monsieur Colman, Directeur
*des Spectacles etc^a^*
À Londres

*From Charles Lee.**

Warsaw May y^e^ 8^th^ 1769.

D^r^ Coleman

You must undoubtedly think me a very extraordinary person, that on a slender acquaintance I shoud have saddled you with the curation of my affairs, and afterwards not think it worth my while to write to you even a civil note such as a common acquaintance who had conferr'd no obligation might have expected; the truth is I have expected evry day to be ascertain'd of my destiny, and then intended to have given you a circumstantial

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* The republican Spirit of *Charles Lee*, which blazed forth so strongly in the famous American War, received a damper from those in whose cause it flamed. He was a Colonel in the English Army, (and had served also in Poland) when he thought proper to commence fighting the battle of the Colonies against the mother Country. He, accordingly, rendered himself very conspicuous, in the western world, as a Major General, under Washington; till, in the year 1778, he was found guilty, by an American Court Martial, to disobedience of orders, misbehaviour before the enemy, and disrespect to the Commander in Chief; — which sentence was, afterwards, confirmed by Congress.

plan of my operations, but as this day is as remote, in all appearance, as ever I shoud be guilty of a monstrous neglect in any farther delaying to pay the tribute of friendship which I so sensibly owe; believe, My dear Sir, I most sincerely love and honour you, and this love and honor is founded on so solid a basis that I have dar'd to neglect a form which wou'd not be pardon'd by a Person who is not really an object of love and esteem I have been in this place two months waiting for an opportunity to join the Russian army, and I am afraid that I shall be obliged to wait a month longer, the communications being fill'd with the offals of the Confederates (who are themselves a banditti) that it is impossible to stir ten yards without an escort of Russians, The English are less secure than others as they are esteem'd the Arch-enemies of the holy-faith — A French Commedian was the other day near being hang'd from the circumstance of wearing a bob-wig (which by the Confederates is suppos'd to be the uniform of the English nation) — I wish to God that three branches of your Legislature wou'd take it into their heads to travel thro' the woods of Poland in bob wigs, — the first opportunity that will offer will be the present Embassador who it is said will now be succeeded in ten days, but this has been so long said I begin to despair of any opportunity offering till the whole is over — The Turks have already got a drubbing at Chot-sin. If I should not arive till all is over, I have made a wise journey of it — I be-

lieve it wou'd break my heart as I have an unspeakable curiosity to see this campaign tho in fact I believe it will be but a ridiculous one, if not quite like that of Harlequin and Scapin, it will resemble that of Wilks and Talbot,* the Russians can gain nothing by beating their Enemy and the Turks are confoundedly afraid, I wish by practice to make myself a Soldier for purposes honest, but which I shall not mention; I think after the Campaign of passing thro Hungary and spending the ensuing winter in the South of Italy Sicily or some of the Islands in the Icarian or Ægean Sea, (you are a Scholar and know where these seas are,) — as to England, I am resolv'd not to set my foot in it, till the virtue which I believe to exist in the body of the People can be put in motion — I have good reasons for it, my spirits and temper were much affected by the measures which I was witness of, measures moderate laudable and virtuous in comparison of what has been transacted since — to return solemn thanks to the Crown for the manifestly corrupt dissipation of its enormous revenues and an impudent demand on the Publick to repair this dissipation is pushing servillity farther than the rascally Senate of Tiberius was guilty of; in this light it is consider'd by all those

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* The papers entitled the "North Briton," written by *Wilkes*, occasioned a duel between him and Lord Talbot.

I converse with of every nation even those who have the least Idea of the dignity of liberty; the Austrians and Russians laugh and hoot at us, in fine it is look'd upon as the consummation of human baseness, as the coup de grace to our freedom and national honour — You will say it is being a pleasant Correspondent, giving you my comments on what passes under your own eyes, and being intirely silent on the transactions of this Country which you may be suppos'd to have some curiosity to be acquainted with — You will scarcely think me serious when I assure you that I am as totally a stranger to em as yourself, as any Man in England, as My Lord Mayor Humphry Gates I am sure must know fivety times more of the matter I see that the Country is in one general state of confusion, fill'd with devastation and murder, I hear every day of the Russians beating the Confederates, but as to what the Russians what the Confederates, what the body of the Nation propose, I am utterly ignorant tho no more I believe than They are themselves; their method of carrying on war is about as gentle as ours was in America with the Shawenese and Dellawars the Confederates hang up all the Russians (generally by the feet) who fall into their clutches, and the Russians put to the sword the Confederates; the Russian Cossacks have an admirable sang froid in these executions; the other day at a place call'd Rava forty or fivety Confederates were condemn'd to the Bayonet, but as They were tolerably well dress'd,

They were desir'd to strip for the ceremony, the Cossacks not chusing to make any holes in their coats. the situation of the King is really to be lamented; notwithstanding he wears a Crown, He is an honest virtuous Man and a friend to the rights of mankind I wish we cou'd persuade a Prince of my acquaintance †,

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I cou'd say many things on this subject digna literis nostris, sed non committenda ejusmodi periculo, at aut interire aut aperiri aut intercipi possint — I hope your kindness has not entail'd any trouble upon you with respect to my affairs ‡, I hope Mr Ayre has been punctual in his payment, I wrote to him from London acquainting him with your powers — If you shou'd pass by Mr Hoar's, I beg you will tell him that I writ to him from Munick

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† Expressions are here omitted, replete with treason and low abuse, disgusting to all but the gentry of that School which has train'd several of it's disciples to the gallows. More of Lee's *radical* rancour would have been expunged, in this and his following letter, if it had not been thought that it's mere virulence were an antidote to revolutionary poison; upon the principle that, Vice

" to be hated needs but to be seen."

‡ Affairs which were foisted upon Mr. Colman, as it is evident, from the expressions in the beginning of this letter; and he ultimately declined to communicate with *Lee*, considering him a dangerous correspondent, whose political principles of action were utterly repugnant to his feelings.

requesting him to send me if possible a letter of credit to Warsaw, and to give credit to a Captain William Spry for surveying my lands in S^{t} John's. how does the hallowed Juliet? it is inconceivable how much I am interested for the success and welfare of that girl — If she does not succeed (but this is impossible) I wish you coud perswade her to marry me and settle in America; my respects to M^{rs} Coleman, and that I am most sincerely hers — Adieu, My D^{r} Friend, et tibi perswadeas te a me fraterne amari —

CHARLES LEE.

My love to Rice, and that when He can find time and matter I wish He wou'd write — the best news he can send me, is his being married to the Princess of Wales or any Widow with vast interest and income — are the women blind or mad in not seizing so inestimable a prize?

Direct to me Chez le Prince General de Podolie — Varsovie — You know Fawkner, ask him if he did not receive a long letter from me from this place, I am apprehensive it has miscarried, for the post are frequently cut of by the confederates, tell him from me (but this I request You will not mention to a third Person) that I hope He will not sell any land to purchase a company, He had better borrow the money, all I can muster shall be at his service which will go a good way — I forgot to

mention this in my letter for God sake, make Rice procure me one of Elliots Dragoon casks, if S^{r} William Erskine is about Town He may ask him for one in my name — it is for the K. of Poland — it must be sent to M^{r} Montagues in Lincolns Inn fields. * * * * * * *

From the Same.

Vienna March y^{e} 16th 1790

My D^{r} Coleman

As I do not know who M^{r} Gratton is or how to direct to him, I must beg you will thank him for his letter — I suppose He is a Person you have employ'd to superintend my small affairs — I dare say He is able and honest from your confidence, and I am extreamly happy not only on my own account but on yours principally that You will be discharg'd from any farther trouble*

* *Garton* was the name of the person to whom this paragraph alludes; — he was Treasurer of Covent Garden Theatre, and a private agent of Mr. Colman: — turning over Lee to this *Factotum* indicates the desire to get rid of a disagreeable correspondent.

He will oblige me in desiring Mr Hoare to send a letter of credit for me to Leghorn as I certainly set out in three days for Italy — I have recover'd my force in some degree, but am yet far from right — my plan is to bathe in the sea for six weeks, and then go through a course of waters at Viterbo or some others that are recommended to me in the upper Valois I should have likd to have embark'd in the Russian fleet — some days I find myself in health spirits and strength sufficient to undertake it — but I am journalier — and on the whole therefore had better let it alone — but I shall regulate myself by my future feelings — I long to be with you in England (I mean with you and four five whom I sincerely love) but dread the agitations I shoud be thrown into by the too slow progress of publick virtue — let the hallow'd Sr George Savile, honour and the genius of England triumph over tyranny corruption Grafton North and the Devil — and I will hasten to participate the joy — or shou'd the sword of our good Angel be unsheath'd, my puny dagger shall contribute its mite of annoyance to the breast of despotism and wickedness * You will excuse my not delivering myself like a man of this world — I never can, on so heating a subject — I wish I cou'd

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* Who would grieve if this Colonel, in the English Army, after breathing the language of the Cato-Street Conspirators, had undergone their fate?

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muster up wit or news to entertain you, but I am unfurnish'd with both, unless you will consider as an article of news my being enamour'd of a Royal family — but I really am smitten with the reigning one of this Country — the women are all divinely handsome gracious unaffected and civil without the air of protection. — the Emperor will I believe one day make a figure, at least comparatively with the sad automata of scepter'd herd — He sent for me the other day, and suffer'd me to converse with him for an hour — as He was curious to have a detail of the Turkish war — I was not much surpris'd at his having so good an idea of this, but cou'd not help admiring his general knowledge of what has pass'd in America — of the geography of the Country, and what is more, of the interest of Great Britain with respect to it — in short I have heard of Monarchs (who are more concern'd in the subject) not quite so well acquainted with it — since I began this letter, I am told a circular letter of credit will be better, on Leghorn Genoa, and Milan if M^r^ Gratton will inform M^r^ Hoare of it — He will oblige me — if Davers is in Town, let him know I have receiv'd his letter — and will answer it from Venice ask my Lord Thanet, if He has receiv'd a long letter from me — I wish You wou'd make Rice write to me He has time, You have none — let him give me the politicks and the progress of cuckoldom — let him direct to me at Venice — I find by

M^r^ Gratton's letter — M^r^ Eyre has not yet paid — He must do it — Adieu, My D^r^ Coleman

Yours most affectionately

C Lee

My service to M^rs^ Coleman — and if You see Fawkner desire He will write to me at Venice I have sent him two letters, one to Hall without receiving an answer

*From William Cowper.**

Dear Colman,

For though we have not had any intercourse for more than twenty years, I cannot find in my heart to address you by any other stile; and I am the rather encouraged to the use of that in which I formerly addressed you, by a piece of intelligence that

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* Cowper, the Poet.

I received not long since from my friend Hill, who told me that you had enquired after me of him, and had said something about an intention to write to me. I took pretty good care that you should not be ignorant of my having commenced author, by sending you my Volume. the reason why I did not send you my second, was because you omitted to send me your Art of Poetry, which in a splenetic mood I suppose, I construed into a prohibition. But Hill's subsequent Information has cured me of that malady so far as you were concerned.

Once an Author and always an Author. This you know, my friend, is an Axiom and admitts of no dispute. in my instance at least it is likely to hold good, for I have more leisure than it is possible to dispose of without writing. Accordingly I write every day, and have every day been writing since I last published, till at last I have made such a Progress in a new Translation of Homer, into Blank Verse, that I am upon the point of Publishing again. Hitherto I have given away my Copies, but having indulged myself in that frolic twice, I now mean to try whether it may not prove equally agreeable to get something by the bargain. I come therefore humbly to sollicit your Vote and Interest, and to beg that you will help me in the circulation of my Proposals for I shall print by Subscrip^{n}. On such occasions you know a man sets every wheel in motion, and it would be strange indeed,

if not having a great many wheels to move, I should leave unattempted so important a one as yourself. As soon as I have your permission I shall order my Bookseller to send you some Papers.

The News informed me of your illness, which gave me true concern, for time alone cannot efface the traces of such a friendship as I have felt for you, no, nor even time with distance to help it. The News also told me that you were better, but to find that you are perfectly recovered, and to see it under your own hand will give the greatest pleasure to one who can honestly subscribe himself to this day

Your very Affectionate

Wm Cowper.

Decr 27. 85
Olney — Bucks.—

I enclose this with a Letter to Johnson my Publisher, to whom I am obliged to have recourse for your address.

George Colman Esqr

LETTERS

TO

GEORGE COLMAN, THE ELDER,

RELATIVE TO HIS TRANSLATIONS OF TERENCE'S COMEDIES, AND HORACE'S ART OF POETRY.

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*From James Booth.**

Dear Sir

I CAN delay, no longer, to return you my best Thanks, for the Fine present you have made me, of your Terence; but the everlasting Obligation you have conferr'd on me, by letting the World

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* Few Lawyers of this day are ignorant of the name and reputation of the late *James Booth.* Precluded, at that time, as a Roman Catholick, from practising at the Bar, he obtained great celebrity, and affluence, as a Conveyancer. In *Colman's Terence*, the play of the "*Brothers*" is dedicated, by the translator, to Mr. Booth, from whom he had received great marks of kindness, and friendship.

know; in so public a manner, that you reckon me among the number of your Friends, deserves every degree of acknowledgement, in my power. My own Labours would never have preserv'd the memory of me, from Oblivion, above half a dozen years, beyond the Grave, but by annexing my Name to so permanent a work, as M^r^ Coleman's Translation of Terence, you have made my reputation almost immortal: Yet, it flatters me still more, to be thus persuaded, that you love me, and that you think me, sincerely, in earnest, when I profess myself to be,

Dear Sir,

with infinite Regard

Your most oblig'd

most affectionate and

most humble servant

JA: BOOTH

Bloomsbury
22. Ap. 1765

*From Bonnell Thornton.**

April 22

Dear Colman,

I HAVE been trying your Terence (for wch I thank you) by reading the Original all the way along with it. Upon my life you have astonish'd me — I hardly thought it was possible to have hit off the expressions so happily — I can easily perceive you flag a little now and then, I mean in the numbers, and I could almost wish in some places the numbers, (where the Dialogue is broken) had been a little less hard; but in the longer speeches you have been prodigiously happy. The language upon the whole is mightily the thing; not affected by stepping out of the way for less modern

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* *Bonnell Thornton* claims no mean rank among the scholars and wits of his time, from his various literary compositions. He was the elder Colman's colleague in the periodical Essays entitled the "*Connoisseur*:" and that which renders his opinion, expressed in the present letter, of more authority, is, his having published, in blank verse, a translation of seven of Plautus's plays; — five of the seven versions were done by himself: — of the two others, one (the *Captive*) is by *Warner*, and the second (the *Merchant*) by *Colman*. *Warner*, afterwards, gave all the rest, which were left unfinished by *Thornton*.

phrases. Indeed I think it the happiest version of any author possible. What a sweet thought it was! but then it requires a good English Linguist to execute it. — *Hic labor, hoc opus.* — Quod sibi quivis — et quæ sequuntur.

I say nothing of your Notes, because I wouldn't allow myself time but barely to skim them over at present — but surely they are very pleasing.

I have only had time to go through the Eunuch, (the first that opened to me) — No mistakes struck me in my cursory reading — one passage I suppose I myself did not understand before — 'tis at bottom of p. 136 — and top of 137 of your Version — You say,

Other ills may be *told* —.

One would think the obvious means of *incommoda alia* sunt dicenda, was *other* ills may be *called* incommoda. But you, who have examined it, must know best.*

* In the later editions, (I know not how it may stand in the first,) the reading is "*lighter ills may pass for* INCONVENIENT;" which tallies with THORNTON's construction, and that of MADAME DACIER, "*le mot*, MAL À PROPOS, *est pour des accidens ordinaires.*" Did Thornton misquote, or do the editions vary?

You have put me entirely out of love with the *bare Idea* of my Plautus. Had I ever before ever so little confidence about it, I now quite despair, so far am I from being spur'd and encouraged by what you have done. As you are got into the track, I really wish you would pursue it, or, could I bring myself to think I could travel with you (so lazy am I and so fearful withall) I could wish to be a Comes jucundus in via with you. Be it as it may, I most sincerely desire you will bestow a thought on it, with or without me.

Supposing the whole of Plautus will not bear translating (which I much suspect he will not) a judicious selection might at least be made of him. Besides, he is a queer crabbed fellow, and is enough to put any one, but one of your perseverance, quite out of all patience with him; and I question after all whether he is worth the trouble, take him alltogether. But of this more hereafter.

Now to my own affair. —

I hear Garrick is either come or coming to come. Will you not entirely forget the MS. I put into your hands, but *at a proper*

time take occasion to mention it to him?* — I mean, after you yourself have looked into it, and think it in the least worth a second thought about.

The beginning of this note might seem written purely as a sugar-plumb to you to induce you to swallow down the end of it more glibly; but I am certain you will believe me in this and every particular

Yours in all sincerity & affection,

BONNELL THORNTON.

* This seems to allude to some drama which Thornton had written, with a view to it's representation on the Stage. If so, his intention proved abortive, for he is only mentioned in the *Biographia Dramatica* on account of his translations of *Plautus*.

*From Thomas Winstanley.**

Friday April 27th

Mr Thos Winstanley's compts to Mr Colman, hopes he will accept of his thanks for his valuable present, in the following lines which he would have sent him sooner had he not been indisposed.

Siccine captat adhuc purus te sermo Terenti,†
Ut juvet eloquio jam decorare novo?
Nec mirum: *interpres* quas reddis adultus, *agendo*
In scenis aderas haud minor ipse puer.

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* When this letter was written, *Thomas Winstanley* was Captain of the King's Scholars, in Westminster School; — and to the King's Scholars Colman inscribes his version of the Eunuch; he sent them, no doubt, his translation of Terence, as a present. — To make the turn of the Epigram in this letter clear, it should be understood that, when Colman was a King's Scholar, he was reckoned a very good Actor in Terence's Comedies, which are represented at Westminster, by the boys in College, previously to the Christmas holidays.

† The following paraphrase may serve to give the English reader some idea of the point in the Latin tetrastick:

Is, then, your love for Terence still so true,
That His pure style is graced again by You?
Well may the Man whole Dramas thus translate,
Whose Parts the Boy so well could personate.

From Mathew Guthrie

S^{t} Petersburg Sept^{r} 12th O. S. 1775

D^{r} Sir,

A man from the frigid Zone, in consequence of having read your Elegant translation of Terence with your commentations, has taken the Liberty of sending you a Small present of little Value but some curiosity. It consists of some rude Musical Instruments in common use in the internal parts of this Empire (Russia) where no foreign custom has found an Enterance for many centurys, and where modern improvements in Music and almost every thing Else, have never been heard of. I mean to be understood as Speaking of the interior parts of the Empire far removed from the Sate of Government, for certainly in the place of my ordinary residence S^{t} Petersburg there are few of the fine arts that have not found their way. Some of the Instruments I send you I think resemble those that we are told were introduced upon the Grecian Stage whilst in its rude,

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* This letter will be found to contain as much learning, antiquarian research, pleasantry, and good sense, as bad spelling, and punctuation. Doctor Mathew Guthrie practised, I am told, as a physician, at St. Petersburg, and was much esteemed by the Emperor of Russia.

Simple, confin'd State, and probably you may find with me a resemblance between the unequal flutes which I send you, and those so often mentioned as accompaniments to the Ancient Drama at its first appearance, they are piped upon by our Russian Shepherds and I think answer to Horaces description,

> Tibia non ut nunc, orichalco vincta, tubæque
> Æmula; sed tenuis, simplexq; foramine pauco
> &c

The Learned Montfaucon was at a loss to conceive how a double flute could create an agreeable harmony yet supposed that it was even more in use with the Ancients than the single; but I am of opinion if he had heard one of those rustics mentiond above play upon it his infidelity would have been removed, at least it pleases my untaught Ear. he also supposes that the two Flutes were in fact separated, but that the several Pipes of each joind in the mouth of the Player; this opinion seems to be confirmd by those sent both with regard to construction and manner of playing upon them. he also Says "that the flute at first had but three holes and that they were afterwards multiply'd to seven and even ten." certainly these strengthen this assertion and are good Samples of the flute whilst in its rude unimproved state with only three holes. — I shall make one observation more upon them, that I think they are not unlike the unequal flutes in the Mouth of Francisco Ficaronis female Minstrel whom you

have given us a plate of, and those She is playing on Seem by the application of her fingers to have also but three Holes. As to the Flutes that were termed by the Ancients Right and Left handed I can pick up nothing in this part of the World that throws any light upon the Subject (altho I have met with another of their instruments in common use as I shall mention after I have given Some description of those I Send) for I suppose there must have been something in their construction that made the name applicable. You will find in the Case another rustick Shepherd's Pipe made of Wood and the Bark of a Tree that I think is as well intitled from its appearance to the Honor of the Original Bucolic Pipe as any thing I have seen, altho I must confess that the captivating Pipe of Theocritus must have had a little more Sweetness in it or he would have found some difficulty to have charmed Lycidas the Goatherd out of his Crook. It has Six Stops and is used here to swell the Chorus of a Rustic Song simular perhaps to that which was the Father of Drama, it is sung by one voice but a number of Boors join the Chorus and sing in parts, I wish from my heart I had the learn'd Dr Burney's Technical Pen to give you a description of both the Vocal and instrumental parts Secund. Art. but I am a judge of no composition but a Bolus or Pill, so you must take the will for the deed, however thus much I can inform you of that it has a deep harsh Note and serves to swell the Chorus altho it does

not add much to the Melody. Besides this Pipe they accompany the Chorus with a stranger sort of an instrument consisting of two Bunches of hollow, oval, Brass Grapes I believe I must call them, for they resemble very much Clusters of Grapes when suspended over the Players Head one in each hand, which he shakes and occasionly strikes together so as to keep time to the Music, this Performer throws himself into a Number of Bacchick postures and has much the appearance of one half mad with Liquor. I am almost tempted to hazard an opinion that this very figure has made its appearance in Antique Musical Groops but from the great resemblance his instrument bears to grap's he has always been taken by the Moderns for a mad Bacchanalian, I wish Sir you that are so founded in these Subjects would pursue this hint and see if there is any thing to confirm it. They are commonly strung like these sent, upon wooden Spoons for the advantage of striking the convex sides of their mouths together which I suppose they find answer better than common sticks.

The next instrument you'll find in the Case I dont know what name to give it but take it to be the Mother of your Guitares, Lutes, &c. and certainly has the most rude Simple appearance that ever stringed instrument bore, it is certainly in its first State of invention from both its Shape Materials and Number

of Strings being only two, and the whole formed by the hand of the Shepherd himself, as indeed are all the rest, but the Brass Grapes — It is surprizing what execution the Russ Boors have upon these instruments considering their Simplicity, and what I admire most is the Ease with which they fill for a lenth of time the pipe cover'd with Bark which you need only try to be a judge of—

upon the whole I take all these to have been the musical instruments of the Ancient Sclavonians or Slavi that possessed the tract of Country afterwards called Russia and that escaped Rurick and the Waræghians or Rossians who over ran and took possession of the Country as I find non of them in those parts where the invaders came from.

I have also visited our new conquered Provinces Moldavia and seen part of Walachia inhabited by Greeks who are certainly not descended from the Heros that bore the same name in the Ancient World, for a race of more ignorant lazy dastardly People I never saw however what makes me mention this part of my travels is to take notice to you of finding the Pipe of Pan consisting of Seven unequal reeds in common use in Moldavia, The performer upon it always accompanys a Groop of itinerant Minstrels who are the only musicians they have in those Parts which I had the clearest proof of at a Ball which the Nobility of

the province gave to Prince Orlof Ambasador plen' at the Congress, the Field Marshal Romansoff, Sir Charles Knowles &c, they could muster no other music and we danced Greek dances to Pans Pipe, another instrument resembling a Violin, a sort of Tabor, and the Voice of a Bard who was perhaps singing Homer in *Modern* Greek, or might be celebrating our activity in the Whirling Ring, with extempory Song like Mr. Barretti's Spaniards for any thing I knew to the contrary.

If I remember right it has been a matter of inquiry amongst the moderns, in what manner the Ancient Greeks join'd their Winding dance, which they threw into so many gracefull figures; whither by joining hands or laying hold of a string. It is danced to this day by the modern Greek Ladys exactly in the same manner that I have seen it painted, they form a long Single line by each Lady laying hold with one hand of the end of a handkerchief, and they twist this line into a great many gracefull figures, according to the fancy of the first or leading Nymph, in a sort of gracefull flowing minuet Step. however these people seem to think Activity in every shape as much below them, and seem to adhere as religiously to the Graces as my Lord Chesterfield. There is a considerable resemblance between this last mentioned Dance and a Polonoise only with the difference of a Single instead of a double line, and I make no doubt but the Poles have taken it from the Greek one as the

countrys border one another, but they seem to have thought a Line of males no bad addition and a hand sufficient without a Kerchief.

When upon this Musical Subject; I must take notice to you also of a Company of Buccarin Tartars who have traveld from their own country down here to show their dexterity upon the Rope, and given me an opportunity of seeing the Drum I realy believe in its first state of invention. it consists of an Earthen Pot that Bellys towards the top and coverd with a piece of dryed Lambskin which they beat with two round Sticks without Nobs at the Ends, which would be unnecessary as they apply the whole surface of the Stick to the parchment.

A pair of these Pot Drums, a Sort of Tabor coverd only of one side and hung with Iron rings, and a skreaming Pipe; is the music with which they exhilarate the Spectators during the performance, and I make no doubt but that it has the proper effect in Buccari altho the four instruments dont produce Six different Sounds.

One would be almost tempted to suppose that those People derived their name from Bucca as their face is almost all *Cheek*. I cant help making an observation upon the performance of those Eastern Neurobati, that altho they perform some difficult feast

upon the rope (which is a thick Hare one and they dance it barefooted) yet there is that Asiatic Lentor attends them which I have observed every where in the East that I have visited; they have nothing of that activity which accompanys European Performance. One thing more offers it self before I take my leave The Finnas or Finns the ancient inhabitants of these countrys bordering the Gulph where we now dwell, have the Bagpipe in a very rude State and from its venerable Simple appearance I strongly suspect it to be the Parent of our Scotch one (as I am resolved to Send you no Orphan) for considering that its principale residence is in the Highlands, and that the Western Islands were often visited by the Baltic Gentery it seems very probable that they had the Honor of introducing that war-breathing Bulga. but at the same time I dont mean even to hint that they have the most distant claim to the Pibrogh, the Cronogh, or any of these Noble Strains which the Highlanders have taught it, on the contrary, I have the best opportunity of judging of their merit by hearing the mean Original —

I think Sir I have now exacted a sufficient Share of your patience in return for my present, so will now quit Scores; and assure you that I am your

admirer and obedient Humble Servant

Mathew Guthrie M. D.

From Joseph Warton. *

Wint. D^r^
7. 1782

My Dear Sir

I AM really & sincerely obliged to you, for giving me a sight of your Art of Poetry, & for the Honour you intend doing me, in inscribing it to me & my Brother. I shall send it to you by a safe Hand the middle of next week, & shall take the freedom of an old friend in making some *Queries* (queries-only?) about some Expressions that you may alter or not, just as you see good. At Xmas, but not till after Jan. 6, I shall try to call on you if in Town. I was extremely mortified to find you passed thro this Town without calling on us. Who is the man that attacks my brothers' History so violently; virulently I should have

* Of JOSEPH WARTON, D.D., and his brother THOMAS WARTON, B.D., any account would be superfluous. This letter is, palpably, written previously to publishing Colman's translation of *Horace's Art of Poetry;* which he has dedicated to these learned and celebrated gentlemen.

said? What can possibly make a man so angry on such a subject?

All here desire their best Compts
& I am dear Sir very faithfully & affectionately Yrs
Jos. Warton

George Colman Esqr
Soho Squiare
London

From the Same.

Wint.
Dec. 11. 1782

My Dear Sir

I hope & trust you will receive your poem safe as I send it by a safe Hand. I sincerely & without Compliment think it done extremely well, & with the force & freedom of Dryden's manner. I hope you will fully explain your Hypothesis.

I am
Dr Sir
very faithfully Yrs
J. Warton

George Colman Esqr

From Horace Walpole.

Strawberry hill
May 10. 1783.

Dear S^r^

for *so* you must allow me to call you, after your being so kind as to send me so valuable and agreeable a present as your translation of Horace, I wish Compliment had left any terms uninvaded, of which Sincerity coud make use without suspicion. Those woud be precisely what I woud employ in commending your Poem; & if they proved too simple to content my Gratitude, I woud be satisfied with an* offering to Truth, & wait for a nobler opportunity of sacrificing to the warmer Virtue.

If I have not lost my memory, your Translation is the best I have ever seen of that difficult Epistle. Your expression is easy & natural, & when requisite, poetic. In short, It has a prime merit, it has the air of an Original.

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* The late Horace Walpole, afterwards *Lord Orford*; — of whom it is as needless to say any thing as of the *Wartons*; and for the same reasons.

Your Hypothesis * in your Commentary is very Ingenious. I do not know whether it is true, which *Now* cannot be known; but if the Scope of the Epistle was, as you suppose, to hint in a delicate & friendly Manner to the Elder of Piso's Sons, that he had written a bad Tragedy, Horace had certainly executed his plan with great Address; &, I think, nobody will be able to show that any thing in the Poem clashes with your Idea — Nay, if he went farther, & meant to disguise his object, by giving his Epistle the air of general rules on poetry & tragedy, he atchieved both purposes, & while the youth his friend was at once corrected & put to no Shame, all other Readers were kept in the dark, except you, & diverted to different Scents.

Excuse my commenting y^r^ comment, but I had no other way of proving that I really approve both the Version & Criticism than by stating the grounds of my applause. If you have wrested

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* See the letter to the Wartons, prefixed to Colman's version, for a full explanation of this *hypothesis*, which is against the published opinions of Doctor Hurd, Bishop of Worcester; and enforced in a delicate gentlemanly style, too rarely found in controversies upon points of literature. *Hurd* was equally polite and dispassionate, when he said to the Bishop of Salisbury, — "Give my compliments to Colman, and thank him for the handsome manner in which he has treated me, and tell him, that *I think he is right.*"

the sense of the original to, favour your own hypothesis, I have not been able to discover your art, for I do not perceive where it has been employed. If you have given Horace more meaning than he was intitled to, you have conferred a favour on him, for you have made his whole Epistle consistent, a beauty all the Spectacles of all his Commentators coud not find out — but indeed *they* proceed on the profound laws of Criticism, you by the Laws of Common Sense, which marching on a plain natural path is very apt to arrive sooner at the goal, than they who travel on the Appian Way, which was a very costly & durable Work, but is very uneasy, & at present does not lead to a quarter of the places to which it was originally directed. I am S^r^, with great regard

Y^r^ much obliged (& not for the first time)
and most obed. humble Ser^t^

HOR WALPOLE

From Thomas Warton.

Dear Colman .

I AM exceedingly obliged to you for your very kind Present. I think your Theory is most ingeniously and rationally sup-

ported; and that many obscure and doubtful passages are cleared up, and placed in a new point of view. I much like the simple Elegance and vigour of your Translation

I am, my Dear Sir,

very sincerely your's

T. WARTON.

Trin. Coll. Oxon.
May 11th 1783.

From Edmund Malone. *

Mr MALONE presents his Compts to Mr Colman, and returns him many thanks for his most obliging present; — and requests his acceptance of an unpublished pamphlet on the inexhaustible subject of Shakespeare, in which, by a singular coincidence, Mr M. finds he has had the good fortune to stumble on a motto, that has likewise attracted the notice of Mr Colman.

Thursday May 6.

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* The Commentator on Shakspeare.

From William Vincent. *

Dear Sir

I RETURN you my best acknowledgements for the present of your translation, & if it will be any satisfaction to you to hear that you have gained a suffrage to your opinion, — I do assure you you have one, in me. the Original, tho' a study of no small labour, has ever been in parts obscure to me — in those parts, I mean, which you particularly complain of, — but the point you more especially wish to elucidate, is as far my judgement goes, made perfectly clear.

There is a particular which strikes me as adding much to the probability of your conjecture of the Elder Piso's attempting a tragedy, — which is, that according to the fashion of the age, every man of Education attempted to write in verse, & most of

* The writings of the late Dr. Vincent are familiar to the learned. He was Under-Master of Westminster School; then Head-Master; then Dean of Westminster. He had clearness of head, and great strength of arm: I have smarted, sundry times, under the influence of the latter.

them for the Stage,—Jul. Cæsar produced an Œdipus; Sueton. cap. 56. in Julio. & Augustus would have done as much if he could — Sueton. Octavi. 85. if this observation should please you, I imagine instances enough might be collected to satisfy a Scaliger or an Heinsius — believe me

Y^rs very faithfully

W: VINCENT

Deans Yard.
May 9th
1783.

From Joseph Warton.

Wint May
12. 1783

My Dear Sir

I THANK you very heartily for your *Epistle* to the Pisos, & for the kind address with which you have honoured me. Ornâsti me. There would be as much Affectation as Insensibility, if I denied it did not give me much pleasure. I cannot help believing but that Your Work will become a popular book. Your Translation

is not only exact, but surely most elegant & clear. And I like the notes much. One I must point out, that on the *disadvantages* of the Chorus. p. 29. tho I used to be of a different opinion; but I think what you say unanswerable; particularly where you observe, what has not been observed before, "that if the Chorus be revised, *all the other* Part of the Ancient Tragedy must be revised along with it." — I see you have paid the Bishop * many handsome Compliments, yet I still think many parts of his Commentary are tortured & far-sought. When I come to Town I shall not fail giving myself the pleasure of visiting you, & I hope you will not forget Us, but pass some Days with us in the Autumn.

I am Dear Sir
Your affectionate & obliged
friend & ser[t]
J. Warton

* *Hurd*, Bishop of Worcester.

From Vernon Sadleir

Dear Sir

Having some Friends on a visit who ingross my time, it has been impossible for me to read your Translation of Horace's Ars poetica with the attention due to all your productions, I have, however, seen enough to promise myself great pleasure in this very pleasing mark of your remembrance and politeness, especially in the judicious notes and observations

I love you for your friendly dedication to the Wartons and I admire that liberal Spirit with which you could prefer those excellent Men to so many of higher rank in Life who would have been proud of the Compliment — I think you have finely gilded the Pill for the Bishop, for a Pill it is, notwithstanding all the delicacy of expression —

* Of whom I know nothing.

I hope you will gather many Converts to your opinion on this celebrated Epistle —

Believe me, dear Sir,
Your much obliged
and faithful Servant,
S W VERNON SADLEIR.

Southampton
15th May 1783 —

From Jonathan Shipley. *

Dear Sir

I RETURN You my best thanks for your most obliging present, after giving myself a little time to estimate the value of it. Indeed your Translation appears to me to be close correct & elegant;

* DOCTOR SHIPLEY, *Bishop of St. Asaph*, opposed Government during the whole of the American War. On a published Speech of this prelate, "intended to have been spoken" in the House of Lords, it has been observed that, "amongst all the productions, antient or modern, it would be difficult to find an instance of more consummate elegance." He possessed talents for poetry. — His sermons, charges, and parliamentary speeches, were printed in two volumes, in the year 1792.

abounding in very happy turns, & writ in that familiar stile which it is so difficult to preserve without running into those flat prosaic Verses w^ch^ are to be found in your quotations from our celebrated Authors; not excepting even the Essay on Criticism. That easy epistolary Stile was y^e^ last attainment of Pope himself.

I have often thought that We wanted some Anecdotes of y^e^ Piso Family to explain y^e^ Art & Intent of y^e^ Epistle address'd to them. Bishop Hurds Hypothesis is not true, because it evidently leads him into forced constructions, & endless refinement without much Taste; which I take to be in some degree the general Character of his Lordship's writings, as well as of his Exemplar Warburton's. Whether your Conjectures are strictly Truth I cannot say; but they look so very like it, that they will answer my purpose almost as well. They help me to find a natural meaning & a propriety of address in some Passages which I hardly knew what to make of before. It would be ingratitude to detain You longer with these grave & trifling reflections in return for the pleasure and amusement You have given me.

I am Dear Sir, with very sincere respect.

Your oblig'd & obedient

humble Serv^t^

J. S^t^ Asaph

Bolton Street May 15^th^

From John Hinchliffe. *

Conduit Street
June 5th 1783,

My dear Sir

Had I thankt you for the favor of the translation you sent me, before I had read it, I shoud not have known how much I am obliged to you. I have now run over the whole, & am perswaded you have given a Key to the mystery, Your Notes contain a great treasure of critical knowlege of the ancient Drama; & I have the pleasure to assure you that the work is lookt upon in a most favorable light by far better judges of its merit, than Your very faithful friend & humble Sert

John Peterborough.

* *Hinchcliffe, Bishop of Peterborough:* — once, Head-Master of Westminster School.

From Thomas Davies. *

Sir

I HAVE read over your Translation of Horace's Art of Poetry with pleasure, I borrowed a copy from Mr Cadell, and could wish you would let me call it my own.

Your notes are learned with liberality — and such as I expected from one of our best Criticks: You think and judge for yourself; at ye same time you pay a just tribute of respect to a great & venerable character.

Dr Johnson who loves you, and always speaks of you with affection, has been greatly indisposed. He is much recover'd &

* The Bookseller; — Author of *Dramatick Miscellanies, Life of Garrick,* &c.

I hope out of danger — A kind inquiry after his health would please him. I am Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

THOMAS DAVIES

Russell S^{t}
June 21st

From Horace Walpole. *

Strawberry hill
Sept. 19. 1785.

I BEG your acceptance of a little work just printed here; and I offer it as a token of my gratitude, not as pretending to pay.

* This letter was bound up in the *Present;* which is a French translation, by the *Duc de Nivernois*, of H. Walpole's *Essay on Modern Gardening:* — the original and the version are printed together, on alternate pages. Walpole had a *Press*, in his house at Strawberry Hill, among other little *conceits* in his Villa.

you for your last present — a translation, however excellent, from a very inferior Horace woud be a most inadequate return: but there is so much merit in the inclosed Version, the language is so pure, and the imitations of our poets so extraordinary, so much more faithfull and harmonious than I thought the French tongue coud atchieve, that I flatter myself you will excuse my troubling you with an old performance of my own, when newly dressed by a Master hand. As too there are not a great many copies printed, & those only for presents, I have particular pleasure in making you one of the earliest Compliments & am S^r^

Y^r^ most obliged

& obed. humble Sert

HORACE WALPOLE

LETTERS

ON

THEATRICAL SUBJECTS,

TO

GEORGE COLMAN, THE ELDER,

WHILE HE WAS A JOINT PROPRIETOR, AND THE MANAGER, OF COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

From Samuel Johnson.

Sir,

THE omission of answering your Letter proceeded neither from inattention nor disrespect, but from fearfulness to promise, and unwillingness to refuse. During this contest of my doubts and wishes which ill health made me less able to compose,

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* The literary Leviathan,— of whom every Englishman who has merely peeped into Johnson's Dictionary has some knowledge. — Probably from this letter, Johnson had promised to write a prologue or epilogue, and was glad to escape the trouble of it, by "finding his poetical civilities superseded."

I intended every week to return to London, and make a letter unnecessary by telling you my purpose. But ill health which has crusted me into inactivity, has by not permitting me to do my business, hitherto precluded my return. I will not deny that I am glad to find my poetical civilities superseded, by a voluntary performance, for I knew not how to set about that which the desire of preserving your regard and of increasing your kindness would have made it very painful to decline.

I am

Sir

Your most humble servant

SAM: JOHNSON

Litchfield. Augt. 19. 1767

My compliments to dear Mr Davies.

To George Coleman Esqr
at Mr Davies's Bookseller in
Russell Street Covent Garden
London

From the Same.

Sir

SINCE your kind promise of a benefit for M^rs^ Williams *, my Friend M^r^ Strahan has obtained the concurrence of all the other partners, except M^r^ Powel to whom I have written, and who delays his answer till he has consulted you. As you will not

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* *Mrs. Anna Williams* was the daughter of a Welch surgeon and physician; who, fancying he had discovered the longitude, was disappointed in his speculations, and reduced to poverty. A cataract had deprived his daughter, Anna, of her sight, when she became the protegée and intimate friend of Doctor Johnson's wife. On the death of Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Williams experienced the constant humanity and protection of the Doctor. Among other acts of kindness, he procured for her, from Garrick, in the year 1755, a *Benefit*, at Drury Lane Theatre, by which she obtained two hundred pounds. — She published, although blind, a translation, from the French, of "the Life of the Emperor Julian," with notes; and a volume, also, of "Miscellanies in Prose and Verse." — She died at Johnson's house, in Bolt Court, aged seventy-seven years.

See Hawkins's Life of Johnson, — Boswell's Life of Johnson, — and other publications.

counsel him to refuse what you have yourself granted, I suppose, he will make no objection, and therefore entreat you to give us, as soon as you can, the play which you think most proper and appoint us the day which can first be spared. You can perhaps give us the choice of several plays, but we know not how to choose as well as you, and therefore hope that you will contrive to make your favour as efficacious as you can.

You will therefore, I hope, turn this business in your mind, and favour me as soon as you can with your determination.

I am

Sir,

Your most humble Servant

AM : JOHNSON

Jan. 17. 1769

From William Smith. *

Ipswich June 30th

Dear Sir,

We have a melancholy report here of Mr. Powell's Death. I 'hope It is not true; but shou'd it be so, perhaps His Share in

* Who lately died at a very advanced period of life, having retired from the Stage in the year 1788. He was the Hero of his day, (*faute de mieux*, perhaps, as to Tragedy,) in the Richards, Macbeths, Kitelys, Archers, &c., &c.; and was the original Charles Surface, in the School for Scandal. Of Powell, mentioned in this letter, the following account is given in Gilliland's Dramatick Mirror: —

"He made his first appearance at Drury Lane in 1763, in the character of Philaster. He had been introduced to Mr. Garrick by his friend, Mr. Holland, two or three months before the manager went to Italy, and being approved, was instructed in the above part. His success was so great, that this tragedy brought crowded houses during that season. He then appeared in several other characters; but for want of sufficient study and attention, his execution was not always adequate to his feelings. In 1767 he was admitted to a fourth share of the Theatre Royal Covent Garden; - - - - He was also one of the managers of the new theatre, Bristol, where he went to perform with his Summer company. He died, after a severe illness, in July 1769. He was buried in the College-church, at Bristol, with great funeral honours, attended by the Dean and whole choir, who sung an anthem on the mournful occasion. He was much esteemed, both as an actor and a private gentleman."

the Patent, *or part of it*, may be to be dispos'd of. May I ask for your advice how to proceed in my application in this affair? I flatter myself in thinking you wou'd have no reason to repent of my connection with you and shall be much oblig'd to you for y^r^ assistance, and for a Line directed to me at Leiston Hall near Saxmundham, Suffolk, where I shall stay till the [*hiatus*] next month.

I am S^r^,
Y^r^ very sincere &
Obed^t^ Hble Serv^t^
W^m^ SMITH

We have had but little sport at the Races, but I have been rather on the fortunate Side.

*To G. Colman Esq^r^*
Great Queen Street
Lincolns Inn Fields
London

Free
C Davers

From J. Stonhouse. *

Dear Sir

I AM truly concern'd to acquaint you, that M^r^ Powell died this Evening at seven o' th' Clock: I write this by M^rs^ Powell's Desire, whose Distress is very great indeed. I hope M^rs^ Coleman is well, & am, Sir,

Your very humble Serv^t^

J STONHOUSE

Bristol July 3^d^.

P. S. I make no Doubt of your being a Friend to the Widow & the Fatherless, & that you will *immediately* take every prudent Caution to secure them in their Property, & prevent her Share in the House from being sold. She will be happy in having you for her Counsellor, and Protector.

*To George Colman Esq^r^*

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* "*Sir James Stonhouse*, a pious and worthy baronet, originally a physician, and afterwards a divine." *Gen. Biog. Dict.* — He died, at Bristol-Wells, in 1795.

From Joseph Reed. *

Dear Sir,

I most sincerely condole with you on the death of poor Powell, as I am convinc'd it is an Incident, that will greatly affect you. From some late favorable Accounts of his Disorder, I was in great hopes of his Recovery; but as Fate has determin'd otherwise, we must submit.

I have this afternoon been warmly advis'd by a Friend to endeavour to purchase the Share of y^r^ deceas'd Colleague in the Property of Coventry Garden Theatre; but as it is so hazardous an Undertaking, I am resolv'd not to proceed in the affair without your Advice, nay let me add without your Concurrence. A theatrical Connexion with you were

a Consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd,

as from a Consciousness of your Integrity, & the Rectitude of your Management, I am convinc'd it would be my Inclin-

* This gentleman is *recorded* as *Reed the Rope-Maker*. He writ several Pieces for the Stage; among them is the Tragedy of *Dido*, by which he is best known:—this play was revived for the late *John Palmer*'s benefit, at Drury Lane, in the year 1797. Mrs. Siddons, on this occasion, acted *Dido*.

ation as well as Interest to continue your fast Friend & Ally; but I would not even think of such a Purchase, unless my being a Partner in the Property would be agreeable to M^r^ Colman.

As therefore M^r^ Powell's theatrical Property will, in all Likelyhood, be dispos'd off, I could wish you would favour me with your Sentiments on the occasion. If I can have the Preference, I should endeavour to make the Bargain advantagious to M^rs^ Powell, by an Annuity besides the stipulated Price.

As I have thus freely unbosom'd my Intention, I have only to desire of you to keep the Subject of this Letter a Secret. I should not have made so recent an application, if I had not been assur'd by my friend there was no time to be lost.

I am,
Dear Sir,
y^r^ sincere Friend, &
most obed^t^ h.ble Serv^t^
Jos. Reed

Sun Tavern fields, London:
July 6. 1769

P. S. I desire my best Compliments to your good Lady.

(At the end of this letter, appears, as a Memorandum, in M^r^ Colman's handwriting, — " no Sale.")

From Charles Holland. *

Dear Colman

I HAVE shed more Tears over your Prologue this morning than ever I shed over any Part in my Life — I do assure you it affects me so strongly that I am apprehensive I shall not be able to give it utterance — I suppose I shall be applied to by all the Printers here for a Copy to Print by but shall part with none till I have your Directions about it — there is a Prospect of a Vast House on Friday which gives a most heartfelt pleasure to

y^r^ much oblig'd H^ble^ Serv^t^

CHA^s^ HOLLAND —

Bristol
Wednesday 12^th^ July.

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* "Charles Holland was a pupil of Mr. Garrick, under whose tuition he made some proficiency, and when that gentleman left London to make the tour of Italy for his health, was with Messrs. Geo. Garrick, Lacy, and Powell, acting manager. He was very useful, and had great requisites for a capital performer — a fine appearance, a strong melodious articulate voice, and a good understanding; in short, he was a favourite with the public, of which by industry and application he rendered himself worthy. Holland introduced Powell to Garrick, and though Powell was his rival and superior, those actors were friends through life." — The Prologue, here mentioned, was written by the elder Colman, on the occasion of Powell's death.

From David Ross. *

Birmingham 9th Septr 69

Dr Colman

I Received yours at Stratford but had no opportunity of answering it then therefore write from my first Stage on bad paper which you must excuse, the only Terms I can or will accept off are these an article for five years this & four more, four hundred pounds for the Season the parts I Playd at the Theatre when I left it if I chuse to perform them — I was amazed you should think it worth your while to think of an objection, between twelve pounds & the money I ask, as you playd Last year it was not twelve pounds, 'tis so inconsiderable that if it was

---

* "Ross (a misfortune which we often meet,)
Was fast asleep at dear Statyra's feet;
Statyra, with her hero to agree,
Stood on her feet as fast asleep as he."

Churchill.

The above Lines contain as much truth as wit, in respect to Ross's indolence and apathy as an actor. There is a querulous spirit running through this letter, common to men of talent (which he certainly possessed) whose disappointments arise from their own neglect and improvidence.

not to Satisfy my Vanity that I would not be sent of & calld on as occasion & necessity require; however you are to study for self — I have fixed my Resolution & nothing but these terms can induce me to quit my own little Farm — for my own part I had rather engage for next Season than this; Let a Season go on to forget Mr Powell — however if you want my assistance you know my Terms. write to me to Edinburgh distinguish me me as there are a hundred with David Ross or to the Castle Hill that will do; I was much amazed at your mentioning Bob Bensley in opposition to me I wish Bob well but must say he is more indebted to your ffriendship than his own merit for his Situation on the Stage he should do Altamont in that Play was I .to cast it I intended to get up. the Dyce-Dealer Mr Yates L Touchwood Woodward Brush Shuter Sr Paul Smith & Bob the 2 Gentln. Harry the 8th Measure for Measure Cato Brutus & Business that had not been seen for some years. these with a Pantomime or a Singing Piece would have been of Some Service — if a man is of real use a hundred pounds is no object much Less the Paltry trifle I ask'd but I had my own reasons & my own ffeelings which cannot be altered — however I am glad we saw one another & renewed our old acquaintance Something may Start up a mad Apprentice & a mad Town is always gaping for Novelty — as I am now on my way the Expence & fatigue of returning would be too much for this Season I hope to be in

London by the Beginning of April & will Prepare my Private matters to be disposed of if you can come into my Terms. if you find you dont want me or the trifle I ask a matter of Consequence our Treaty ends. & I hope we shall ever continue as friends I am Dr Sr

Yours Sincerely

David Ross

P. S. On Second thought I think it better to wait here the return of Post at the Swan

To
George Colman Esqr
Queen Street
Lincolns Inn fields
London

The Memorandum affixed to this letter is, — "*Answered*; — *his old terms for* 3 *yrs*."

From Thomas Linley.

Bath Oct^{r} 11th 1770.

D^{r} S^{r}

You are desirous of knowing my real sentiments in regard to my Daughters performing in London, therefore I will be as plain as I can. I think, as She has acquired a Reputation, I ought to have the advantage of her first performing in London myself: and as the publick Rooms in London are open to me upon the same Terms as to all other Performers, there is a great Probability that I may get more than the sum M^{r} Tom's offers, by my attempting a Concert on my own Account should I determine to come to London. It is contrary to my Inclination that my Daughter should sing at either House for the Oratorio's, or any

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* Mr. *Thomas Linley* is fresh in memory, for his science in musick, and his taste and genius in that composition which is produced by "the concord of sweet sounds." His private character, also, was most respectable; and there are some traditional anecdotes, among his surviving friends, relative to his pleasant manners, and his *bon mots*. The Daughter, of whom he writes, was the Miss Linley so much admired for her sweet singing, and her beauty; and who became the first wife of *Richard Brinsley Sheridan*. — It seems, from this letter, that the interests of the Conductors of Oratorios, in Covent Garden, were in some sort connected, then, (as they are now,) with those of the Theatre.

where else in London, where I am not myself a Principal in the Undertaking — for were I properly settled in London, I think I could conduct the Business of Oratorios myself, whenever an Opportunity offered for me to attempt it; therefore I do not relish the giving the prime of my Daughters Performance to support the schemes of others: (you desired I would speak my mind — I do so — but you may suppose I should not chuse that this should pass your own Breast) but notwithstanding this, as you seem so strenuous that I should engage w^th^ them, If M^r^ Tom's will give me 200 Guineas, and a clear Benefit, for w^ch^ my Daughter shall have the choice of any Oratorio that has been before performed she shall come — otherwise I think it most to my advantage to take my chance whenever I come to London.

In regard to engaging her as an Actress I shall never do that, unless it were to ensure to myself and Family a solid Settlement, by being admitted to purchase a share in the Patent on reasonable Terms, or something adequate to this, either of w^ch^ I perceive no probability of obtaining — and I shall never lay myself at the mercy of my Children, especially when their very Power of being of service to me depends so entirely upon Chance —

M^r^ Garrick is in Bath — I have had some Overtures from him, w^ch^ I declined, without coming to an Explanation, for I never

shall engage my Daughter upon the Stage as an actress upon any other sort of Terms than those I have spoken of, and w^ch^ I should not have mentioned, as you may think them Impertinent, but that you requested to know my real sentiments upon this Subject w^ch^ you now do, and may believe that I shall be always ready to any thing in my Power to oblidge you as far as is consistent w^th^ the Duty I owe to myself & Family & that I am very respectfully S^r^ your most

Obed^t^ Hble Serv^t^

THO^S^ LINLEY

My Wife & Family desire their Resp^s^ to M^rs^ Colman & yourself — I shall be much oblidged to you for a Line in answer to this as soon as convenient

To
*George Colman Esq^r^*
*Great Queen S^t^*
Lincolns Inn fields
London

From Charles Macklin. *

Sir

If you think that I, as an Actor, together with the use of the Farce of Love a la mode, can be of any Service to Covent Garden Theatre, I am ready to treat with you about an Agreement on the same Footing on which other Actors usually engage. or if you could point out a manner of engaging with me, more agreeable in your Judgement to the Interest of your Theatre than this that I propose I am ready to treat with you, and Shall be obliged to you for your Answer as Soon as Conveniency will permit

I am

Sir

your humble Servt

Octr 12th 1770

James Street Covent Garden

CHARLES MACKLIN

To

George Colman Esqr

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* There is little to be told of this histrionick veteran that has not been told over and over again. Whatever may be necessary to say of him, in illustration of subsequent letters, will be given.

Rough Copy of Answer to the above from G. Colman.

Sir,

THERE are, I think, many objections to an Agreement with you on the same footing on which other actors usually engage. Your last Agreement at our Theatre was for twenty nights in one Season, at the rate of £20 p^{r} night and a Benefit paying the usual Charge; for which you engaged to perform in Love a la mode, and any other pieces, and to produce two new Farces, allowing for a proportionable deduction from the number of nights, in case of the failure of one or both of your new productions. — I am ready to treat with you on the same terms, or to give you an answer to any other proposals, when I know the particulars.

From Charles Macklin.

Sr,

In answer to my proposals to you on the 12th Inst you tell me — there are many objections, you think, to an agreement with me on the Same Footing on which other actors usually engage. I own I am surprized at this way of thinking on a Subject So very clear as it appears to me. for your Books can shew that I brought to your Theatre. in ten Nights acting, between four and five hundred Pounds more than Mr Powel & Mrs Yates in the same number of nights, tho they both acted together. and I am confident that I can now bring more money than any of the Performers that now belong to it, exclusive of a new Pantomime or the attraction of a new Piece being added to their Performance. and in that Case Experience daily shews that it is not the actor's Performance that has So much the Power of filling the House as the novelty that is added to it. Now Sir this advantage of novelty, which can be had only at a great Expence, my Performance will not need. as I can from acting in the Plays in ordinary use, and from my own Resource as a writer produce more money to a theatre on the nights I act than any other actor or Actors or

Performers of any kind whatever that can now be hired in England. This assertion is not from vanity, but from fair Argument drawn from Experience, & which is demonstrable to a moral certainty. But to prove that I speak as I think, I will urge an argument that can admit of no doubt — I will give 180l. for the House for as many nights as we shall agree upon for me to act, which I think is more than any other Performance can now produce at Covent Garden Theatre. Now Sir this being a fair State of my Case as to my utility I must confess that I am at a loss to find out a Single objection against your Agreeing with me on the same footing on which other actors usually engage. I wish you had thought it proper to have particularized your objections, for then I might have answered them; or perhaps they might have been removed; or at least So adjusted as to have brought about an Agreement to our Mutual Satisfaction. and for these Reasons I shall take it as a Favour if you will let me See your objections on Paper; — or precisely say whether or no you will agree with me on the Same Footing on which other Actors usually engage. for if you have already determined on that Point in the Negative, no Reasoning of any advantage whatever to your Theatre from my being admitted into it on that Footing can have any weight with you. therefore I think a precise declaration on that Point is necessary to prevent any farther Trouble about it. for as that is the mode of Agreement I chuse I should be glad to

have it settled one way or the other, before I speak upon any other Point

I am Sir

your humble Servt

CHARLES MACKLIN

Octr 16. 1770.

I must apologize for not answering your Letter Sooner but other extraordinary Business engrossed both my Time & attention which prevented me.

To
George Colman Esqr
great Queen street
near
Lincolns-In-Fields.

*From William Kenrick.**

Sr

As my only motive for writing for the Stage is profit, you rightly judge that the delay hinted at in your Letter will be extremely inconvenient; as even the greater importance of my other pursuits renders the aid of my literary gains altogether necessary. This is so particularly the case at present, that I could have been content never to trouble the theatre with any production of mine again, had it been practicable to have got on my Opera with any success this or the next Season. The disappointment therefore is the more sensible, as I have many reasons against offering it the other house, had I time or inclination to waste it on such

* *Kenrick* seems to have been a bilious character, — repeatedly attacking men more intellectually gifted than himself, and taking Literary Bulls (such as Dr. Johnson, and others,) by the horns. This Author, says the *Biographia Dramatica*, " with considerable abilities, was neither happy nor successful. Few persons were ever less respected by the world, still fewer have created so many enemies, or dropped into the grave so little regretted by their contemporaries." The Opera he mentions, in this letter, cannot now be ascertained.

application. — If you have an opinion good enough of the piece as to think it worth any thing at present, as my future avocations in life will in all probability be of a very different turn, I would be glad to give up my right & title to it, for a very trifle *more* than a *Song*. Otherwise I must leave it to time & chance, as an unfortunate offspring turned adrift for want of abilities in its parent to support it. I should have waited on you myself, were I not confined to my room by indisposition. As soon as I go out, will do myself that pleasure &

am S^r^

obedient humb Ser^t^

W. KENRICK

Warwick Street Golden Square.
next door to a Glazier.

*To G. Colman Esq^r^*
*Great Queen S^t^*
Lincolns inn Fields

Answer.

Sir,

I am extremely sorry to find that the unavoidable delay is likely to prove so inconvenient to you, & should be still more concerned if it induced you to forego any advantages to which you might otherwise be entitled; But it is not in my power to arrange matters in any other manner than as I mentioned in my last, nor would I on any consideration be instrumental to your waving those advantages on the Terms which you offer.

I am S^{r} &^{c}

25 Mar. 1771 —

To M^{r}. Kenrick

From William Kenrick.

Mr Kenrick presents his compliments to Mr Colman, requests his acceptance of a printed copy of his lecture. — Has been confined at home by the gout, or should have waited on Mr Colman, about settling the parts of his Opera, for the better guide of the composers. — is obliged to Mr Colman for the hints he was pleased to give him, of which he has taken care to profit, as Mr Colman intended, & will do himself the pleasure of waiting on him in a few days.

Charles Street
St James's Square.

To
Mr Colman

From Catherine Clive.

Twickenham April y^e^ 12. 1771

Sir

I HOPE you heard, that I Sent my Servant to town to Inquire hou you did; indeed I have been greatly Surprisd and *Sincerly* Concernd for your unexpected Distress; there Is Nothing Can be said upon these Melancholly occations To a person of understanding, fools Can not *feel* people of Sence *must*, and *will* and when they. have Sank their Spirits till they are ill, will find that Nothing but Submission Can give any Consolation to Ineveitable missfortunes

* There is much kindness of heart, and soundness of understanding, in this ill-spelt letter of *Kate Clive*, which was written on the death of my mother: — Mrs. Clive had retired from the Stage ten or eleven years before this period, to a charming residence, near the banks of the Thames, belonging to Horace Walpole, and adjacent to his villa at Strawberry Hill.

> " First, giggling, plotting chambermaids arrive,
> Hoydens and romps, led on by Gen'ral *Clive*.
> In spite of outward blemishes she shone,
> For Humour famed, and Humour all her own;" &c. &c.
>
> CHURCHILL.

I shall be extreamly glad to See you, and think it woud be very right if you woud Come and Dine hear two or three Days in a week it will Change the Sceen and by the Sincerity of your wellcome you May fancy your Self at home

I am Dear Sir

Your obliged hum. Servant

C : CLIVE

To

Geo. Coleman Esq^r

Richmond.

From William Smith.

Dear Sir

I THINK I told you when I saw you last that I was under a necessity of determining my Engagements very shortly. I am now reduc'd to give a positive Answer in four days. If It does not suit you to come to a conclusion with me in that time, I shall be obligd to accept of an offer in another place. As I have wish'd to give you the preference I hope you will do me the justice of acquitting me of either hurrying you, or dealing with you in an underhand or disrespectful manner: I cannot accept of other

terms than those I propos'd to you, so wou'd not take up your time improperly.

I am S^r^
y^r^ very sincere &
Obed^t^ Hbl^e^ Serv^t^
W. SMITH

Beauf^t^ Build^s^
Wednesday.

To
*George Colman Esq^r^*
Great Queen Street.

Answer.

Dear Sir,

LAST night I received your favour of yesterday, wherein you tell me that you cannot accept of other Terms than those you proposed to me. The Terms you proposed were an advance of nearly five pounds per week in your salary — a demand with which it is not in my power to comply. Still however I wish you to continue at Covent Garden, and am, Sir, &c.

G^t^ Qu^n^ S^t^
25 May 1771

Mem. wrong dated
it was sent the 23^d^

From James Love. *

Richmond June 7th 1771.

Dear Sir,

MANY times have I experienced your favours, of which, I think I know myself well enough to be sure, I never shall be unmindfull; But that you may be fully convinced of what, no doubt, you have often observed, that Beggars are never to be satisfied; I am bold enough to acquaint you that I have set my Heart upon your granting me a further instance of your kindness and condescension.

That this request comes late, permit me to say I have substantial Witness, was merely owing to my being overpersuaded that you wou'd treat the matter with contempt and unworthy of your acceptance. But some Gentlemen whom I know to be your sincere friends and wellwishers have, since, taught me to hope the contrary and embolden'd me to intreat that you will

* His real name was *Dance*; and he is known as a Drury Lane Actor, who, having acquired a good deal of reputation in the character of *Falstaff*, was too apt to smack of the *Fat Knight*, when he performed other parts; — against which he is cautioned in the *Rosciad*. He built a new theatre, at Richmond.

accept the Freedom of the Richmond Theatre & honour me with your patronage and protection.

Depend upon it, dear Sir, you will exceedingly delight a Person who has an unfeigned respect for you, by stooping to receive, as it is meant, this trifling instance of his gratitude. — The obligation must ever rest upon my side, as it is impossible, in the confin'd State of our little Theatre, that your expence of Time can be fully recompens'd.

I am

Dear Sir

Y^r^ much oblidgd

and most ob^t^ humble Serv^t^

JAMES LOVE

P. S. I have ordered a proper Medal to be prepar'd for your use.

Answer.

London 10 June 1771

Dear Sir

HAVING left town before the post came in on Saturday it has not been in my power to acknowledge the receipt of your obliging

favour of the 7th inst sooner. I accept your offer in the same spirit of cordiality & good neighbourhood with which I trust it is made, & shall be always happy to prove myself a friend & wellwisher to You & to the Richmond Theatre.

Yours &c.

From James Paine.

Bristol 24 Oct^{r} 1771.

Sir,

I AM desired by Doct^{r} Elmer, the Prebend now in office at Bristol, to acquaint you that the two last lines inscribed by you to the memory of the late M^{r} Powell have given much offence to himself & many others; he insists on their being struck out before he leaves this place; or he will have the Monument taken down. You will do me the favor to excuse this liberty, otherwise by his *express orders* I was to stop my men from going on with their work. Doct^{r} Elmer lives in the Colledge Green.

I am Sir

Y^{r} very Humb^{le} Serv^{t}

JAMES PAINE

N B. the Doct^{r} said I was to acquaint you that the lines to which he objected were nonsense or something worse. *

George Colman Esq^{r}
in the great Piazza
Covent Garden
London

* The Epitaph, which so roused the wrath of the Prebendary, is now inserted: let some Œdipus discover, if he can, those points in it which have sinned against religion, and common sense.

" Bristol! to worth and genius ever just,
To thee our Powell's dear remains we trust;
Soft as the Stream thy sacred Springs impart,
The milk of human kindness warmed his heart,
That heart which ev'ry tender feeling knew,
The soil where pity, love, and friendship grew.
Oh! let a faithful friend with grief sincere
Inscribe his tomb, and drop the heart-felt tear.
Here rest his praise, here found his noblest fame!
— All else a bubble, and an empty name!"

Could Doctor Elmer possibly conceive that Religion was implied to be a *bubble*, because it is not *specifically* mentioned, in the Epitaph, among Powell's virtues?

From George Colman, to Doctor Elmer.

Sir

The Dean of Bristol having granted his permission for the putting up a Monument to the Memory of the late Mr Powell, I have been exceedingly surprised at the receipt of a Letter from the Statuary, Mr Paine, written (as he pretends) by your direction, & telling me that "the Inscription has given great offence to you and many others, the two last Lines being Nonsense, or something worse." If they are not nonsense I am afraid they are at least obscure, having render'd my meaning, which I thought obvious, so liable to misinterpretation. Such as they are, however, they must stand or fall with the rest, for I am resolved to give them no correction or alteration, tho' ever so minute, lest I should appear to plead guilty to the Charge of having intended something worse than *nonsense.* Benevolence and Christian Charity are virtues which Religion is able to plant in the most barren soil, as well as to cultivate & improve in the richest. Every other pretence to merit I have consider'd as an empty claim, & for these virtues only

have I celebrated my departed friend; purposely avoiding the slightest commendation of his great excellence in his profession. In this light the Lines have been generally understood in London, and, even after the severe strictures on them at Bristol, I am still utterly at a loss to comprehend how they could possibly give offence or be mis-construed.

I am, Sir,

your most obedient humble servant,

G. COLMAN.

Covent Garden
28th Oct^{r} 1771

From the Dean of Bristol.

THE Dean of Bristol's Compts wait on M^{r} Colman, & acquaints him, that in the Morning Chronicle & London Advertiser, of Nov^{er} y^{e} 15th are two Paragraph's *, equally abusive of M^{r} Colman & the Dean. The Card, in the Dean's name, is a Lye, from the

* Relative, it is supposed, to the abovementioned epitaph.

beginning, to the End. He wishes to see Mr Colman, to consult what steps are proper to be taken, to find out the Author, or to punish the printer for the Lies he has published.

St Andrews Saturday Night Novr 16th

From J. Ferguson.

Sir,

I HAVE been several times at your House, but have not been able to find you at home; I have therefore (to avoid the slightest imputation of Ingratitude, to the Man who has been so instrumental in the Preservation of my Life) taken this method of returning you my most sincere and hearty Thanks for your generous Care and Humanity at my late unhappy Fall into the Pit at your Theatre, and during my illness — and at the same time to assure you of my Sorrow at the Destruction of the Glass Chandelier by that accident.

With a due Sense of your Benevolence, I pray God for the Preservation of your Health, and that your Endeavours to please the Town may exceed your most sanguine Expectations, I remain,

Kind Sir,
Your much obliged,
and most obedient Servant,
J. Ferguson.

S^{t} Martin's Lane,
Nov. 20, 1771.

P. S. I am now so well recovered as to be able to attend my Business as usual.

George Colman Esq^{r}
Covent Garden Piazza

From William O'Brien.

Winterston. Aug^{t} 31st
1772.

My dear Sir,

After having exhausted all my ideas upon the subject, I return you my Farce, and christen'd as you suggested — the Title of Cross Purposes is a much better one than the first, and you reliev'd me from an anxiety by it which I cannot express. I have also taken your advice and cut it into two Acts, at the place you proposed, I hope you will think as well of it as before. I had wrote a Scene between Grub and his Wife to conclude the first act, but as it was of the Altercative kind I, upon reading the whole, thought it better to leave it as it is. You will find

* "His first appearance was at Drury Lane Theatre, in the year 1758, in the part of *Captain Brazen*; and in characters of that class he arrived at a high degree of reputation. After continuing on the Stage about six years, however, he withdrew altogether from a theatrical life." *Biog. Dram.* — He was well descended, and married into a noble family. Of his two Dramas, the Farce of *Cross Purposes* (reduced now to One Act) is still a Stock Piece; his Comedy, intitled the *Duel*, was unsuccessful.

some additions sprinkled quite through it, and those I leave, as I do indeed the whole, intirely at your mercy. Do with it as you please — You will find that I have not made many omissions, and shall I tell you why — I must frankly own to you that my feelings upon it are so many & so various that I can't trust myself. Sometimes I am so pall'd with it that I think it sad stuff, & at other times I am so pleas'd with it that I cannot help thinking every word in its place and important in the highest degree — this may be very ridiculous but its very true — *veræ voces eliciuntur pectore ab imo.* perhaps you may have felt something like this yourself.

I think that many cuts need not be made untill it comes into rehearsal, as often what reads but indifferently will come pleasingly enough from the mouth of a judicious Actor: beside that I think it rather short as it is for two acts, tho' I may be mistaken, and indeed it had much better be thought too short than too dull for representation. If you can prevail upon Mr Woodward to take Chapeau, I think it would be of great service to the piece, it is not so worthy of him as I could wish, but I think w^th^ his acting must have a very good effect provided he does not drawl as abominably as he too often does. he ought to be made a very *good figure* — w^th^ a great deal of hair, in paper, turn'd up behind w^th^ a large comb — macaroni

waistcoat & powdering short jacket — & slippers down at heel. as to the resemblance to High Life, I can only say that as the humour of the whole don't turn upon it, it ought not to have weight, as this is the best way of making use of Servants — and if you will draw them as they are you will find them frequently resembling each other. Dyer I think I mention'd for the other whose name I have chang'd as I recollect. to Dapper somewhere or other — Transfer I think better chang'd for *Consol.* Yates I think will support Grub well as his testy petulant manner is so peculiar to himself. M^rs^ Green should be dress'd vulgarly and ridiculously genteel; in my opinion the Ladies on the Stage don't sufficiently consider the truth of character in that respect. the House Maid you will give to any body you think can be naïve & simple enough to say her little with the insignificant manner that belongs to it. The Three Brothers Persons should be contrasted — the eldest most sturdy & swarthy to answer his description & the second fair — I hope you will do me the honor to write a few lines to usher me to the Town, and mention this as being my first attempt — after what flourish you please. I beg you will let me know when you put it into rehearsal that I may see one or two of the most perfect, as I am sure I shall be in such a Fidget I shall not be able to resist coming to see my fate. I can easily go from your House into some of the Boxes

without being noticed — beside chusing to avoid the *Dicier* * *hic est* in case of a disappointment, I am afraid of giving offence to my best friend Lady Ilchester, who is the best woman in the world but very riligious and prejudiced in many particulars.

I take an opertunity of some things going to Town tomorrow to Lord Ilchesters to send the Manuscript there, where it shall be order'd for delivery to the person who comes for it from M^r^ Colman —

I am, My dear Sir, with the greatest regard,

y^r^ most obed^t^ Servant

W^M^ O'Brien.

To

George Colman Esqr
Covent Garden
London

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* Query — *Dicitur ?*

From William Smith.

S^r^

SINCE we parted I have most *impartially* stated our Case to a very sensible friend who is clearly of Opinion, that unless you mean dishonorably, you cannot hesitate in giving me your Answer: nevertheless You shall not be distress'd for y^r^ Play tomorrow.

I am,

Friday

Y^r^ very H^ble^ Serv^t^

W. SMITH.

S^r^

To be charged with meaning *dishonourably*, for that is your expression, by one who has departed from his Agreement, while I have religiously adhered to mine, is pleasant indeed. Why do you fear my impartiality in stating this Case to your friends?

If you proceed as you have threaten'd, I have no doubt where the dishonour will begin.

I am Sir

Your most hble Servt.

G. COLMAN

Covt Garden
30 Octr 1772.

From William Smith. *

Dr Sir

You or I or both of us are unluckily apt to misunderstand one another, & what has been meant well has been misinterpreted. this is certainly the case with regard to my last Letter, which was literally design'd to make every thing as easy to you, as my ill state of Health wou'd admit of. I had a message from Mr.

* From Smith's restlessness as an *Actor*, the manager seems to have had a lucky escape from him as a *Partner*; which he proposed to become, on the report of Powell's death. See a former letter from Smith.

Younger on Wednesday night, that you were resolv'd on having Jane Shore on Friday at all Events & if I was not well enough to play Hastings, you wou'd have done it without me. Well knowing, that Performers are not ready to play a Part on such occasions, & resign it again, I made an offer of giving it up. Thus what I meant for your Ease is turn'd to my disadvantage; & what was meant for my Own, you tell me is beneath me; which was my declaring I was sorry you cou'd not accomplish getting a Hastings. I solemnly declare I had neither a vain or an invidious meaning in it; which you are pleas'd to charge me with. If I recollect my *strain*, at least *Part* of it was civil, where I acknowledg'd, as I ever shall, y^r^ readiness to oblige me when I have wish'd to be excus'd from Business. This alone ought to prevent me from writing in an improper Strain & I intended it shou'd; neither can I recollect giving any hint that y^r^ Enquiries cou'd give offence. Indeed I did not expect any, never having as yet been honor'd with them. But I was gone to Salt Hill where no enquiries but by Post cou'd reach me, nor cou'd I think them necessary being determin'd to return to Town, the moment I was well enough to attend even a Rehearsal. One thing you must give me leave to add, which was an Idea that you might have another Hastings in View as my Name was not advertis'd at the Time that M^rs^ Hartly's was; a Compliment, which at Drury Lane, is never refus'd a Capital Performer; but this you

are to judge of & determine. I really shou'd not have mention'd this, had you not hurt me by putting a wrong construction upon what I never meant shou'd offend you & I am really sorry it ever did.

I am, S^{r},

Y^{r} most Hble Serv^{t}

W, Smith.

Beauf^{t} Build^{g}. Sunday

I am (tho not quite well) ready to perform to-morrow

M^{r} Colman

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*From Oliver Goldsmith.**

Dear Sir

I entreat you'l relieve me from that state of suspense in which I have been kept for a long time. Whatever objections you have

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* The much celebrated *Goldsmith*: — The Comedy in question, here, is "*She Stoops to Conquer*," which succeeded greatly.

made or shall make to my play I will endeavour to remove and not argue about them. To bring in any new judges either of its merit or faults I can never submit to. Upon a former occasion when my other play was before M^r. Garrick he offered to bring me before M^r. Whitehead's tribunal but I refused the proposal with indignation: I hope I shall not experience as hard treatment from you as from him. I have as you know a large sum of money to make up shortly; by accepting my play I can readily satisfy my Creditor that way, at any rate I must look about to some certainty to be prepared. For God sake take the play and let us make the best of it, and let me have the same measure at least which you have given as bad plays as mine.

I am your friend
and servant
OLIVER GOLDSMITH.

George Colman Esq^r

From William Smith.

Aug: 6

S^r

AFTER the many disagreements betwixt M^r Colman & me, He may perhaps wish to decline a Correspondence with me, I there-

fore beg leave as I am totally disengaged from all Theatrical Connections, through you to offer my Services to the Managers of Covent Garden Theatre, & have the Honor to be, S^{r},

Y^{r} most Obed^{t} &
sincere Hble Serv^{t}
W. SMITH.

I beg to be favord with a Line under Cover

To the rev^{d} M^{r} Benet
Aldeburg
Suffolk.

(This letter was addressed to Mr. Harris.)

From Charles Macklin.

D^{r} Sir

I HAVE just received a Species of Irish female Garniture which accompanies this note. I think it has Some fancy in it, tho manufactured in Bœotia. it consists of Seven Yards, enough for two gowns, or one Saque & Petticoat, I have often tried at Compliments to the fair Sex; but not finding myself happy at that kind of Eloquence I have taken my leave of it for some years. I request that you will dispose of this Triffle in your houshold, and that you will be so kind as to exercise your Ge-

nius, in my name, on this occasion in apologic Compliment & Perswasion, which will much oblige

yours,

as you would have him,

CHARLES MACKLIN

August 7th 1773

P: S: I hope you are, in the midwife Phrase, as well as can be expected in your Condition. I hope you are near your time. Apollo Send you a good hour. * I have had a disagreeable one lately — my Son unexpectedly, unprofitably, & unwelcome, returnd from the East-Indies in disgrace, & justly, for being a bon vivant and guilty of all the idle Consequences of that unmercantile, & indeed as he has managed it, ungentleman-like Character. I was proud of his Employment in that honourable Service, as it is capable, by an assiduous & faithful discharge of that Trust, of furnishing great Knowledge & dignity of mind, & of rewarding the man with wealth and honour. I was proud of the Parts nature had given him, & of the Cultivation I be-

* From the date of this letter, the Comedy, with which my father was then pregnant, must have been the *Man of Business*; not the most thriving of his literary children.

stowed upon them; I was confident of his assiduity & Success, & loved him to a paternal pitch of Zeal — now Judge of my State of mind. I was the happiest I am now the most perturbed Father in this Land. I can not eat, I have not Slept this week I can not read, nor remember; & tho Justice has disgraced him, Still he is mine, — & I think I Shall Still be happy in him — for he has a fine understanding, & is Sick in bed with Self-disgrace & Penitence — which must reform — or kill him. which is my only comfort. *

My Chains are forged ready for putting on, this unhappy Incident has prevented my Seeing you. — I find paternel affection & Philosophy make a most unequal Conflict. nature will not be defied, she must have her way or make her Exit. — you are a Father, may you be a happy one — I pity the Character. — especially if the Fool is proud & fond, ——

To

George Colman Esqr

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* *Macklin* has been thought, by many, to be a man of little feeling: — but, surely, his sentiments of paternal tenderness (so naturally here express'd) come from the heart, and are very affecting.

From William Smith.

Aug: 8th
Leiston

Dear Sir

I rec^{d} y^{r} favor this Morning. Your genteel manner of complying with my last proposal has much oblig'd me. I am doubly happy this affair is finish'd, for I am persuaded y^{r} Partners wou'd have triumph'd in our separation, as they bear me no good will for (what they call) deserting a Cause *, which, in fact, I never espous'd.

In answer to the Business you mention'd I shoud have no objection to *Mosca*, had I not been in possession of the part of Volpone for these 5 years, & rehears'd it twenty times while Woodward was in y^{e} Company, As you have sent it to M^{r} Ross, I cou'd wish to be out of the Play, & instead of Mosca, employ'd

* This alludes to misunderstandings between the Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre, which were ultimately subjects for legal decision.

in a longer Part in the Epicœne — which I hear is much improv'd under y^r hand: I am D^r S^r, with great truth

Y^r very sincere & obed^t Serv^t
W Smith

To
G. Colman Esq^r
Great Queen S^t
Lincolns Inn Fields
London

From the Same.

Leiston Hall, Sept^r 1^st

Having left M^r Benet's some time I did not receive y^r Letter till the 20^th Aug: It was then incumbent on me (before I gave an Answer) to communicate the Contents to those Friends who have supported me through Life, who insist on my not accepting worse terms from you than I was engag'd for in my former agreement. If therefore you mean by "my late Salary" what I did receive & not the advance you had agreed to, It is out of my power to take it: nor do I think it liberal in you to offer it; As I cou'd not, Had you been ever so distress'd for a performer, had the con-

science to have ask'd more from you than the Salary settled betwixt us before.

As to y^r new Ally, It is a nice circumstance. There is certainly Business enough for both of us without either being injur'd; & indeed more than any One Actor can go through. Manage this point with Candor & Delicacy & and so far from murmuring, I shall be pleas'd with it.

In respect to our disagreements, I shou'd have expected you wou'd have been ingenuous enough to have suppos'd y^self responsible for part of them: but Be that as it may, shoud we be again connected, All that has pass'd disagreeable betwixt us must be mutually & entirely forgotten, or we must go out & settle our differences like men & gentlemen, for I will not be on ill terms with you again. I must therefore beg if you cannot receive me heartily & cordially (as I will you) you will decline all treaty with me at once, for better is a dinner of herbs & Content than a stall'd ox and strife. I am not apt to quote the Bible, but as peacemaking is the Business 'tis not mal a propos.

Now S^r if these matters can be adjusted to our mutual satisfaction, Let us shake hands & drown all remembrance of former

feuds in a Bottle of Claret: for tho' hot & Passionate, when once the Olive Branch is held out to me I have no resentment, upon Honor. I am setting out for Newmarket, shall return thro' Hertfordshire, so if you please to give me a Line It will find me at Ralph Winter's Esq^{r} Bishop Stortford Herts.

I am S^{r},

Y^{r} very Hble Serv^{t}

W^{M} SMITH.

George Colman Esq$_{r}$
Covent Garden
London.

From the Same.

S^{r}

I AM this moment come to Town & meant to see you. In the opinion of the most impartial y^{r} last Letter tends much more to inflame than abate our disagreement. I held out the Olive Branch to you, & cannot conceive that anything in my Letter deserved the illnature & incivility you have returnd me. I will make no other comment on it, as I still wish to meet you on

good terms & in good humour. 'tis said you intend to banish me from the Stage: but as you assure me you wish to see me reinstated on it I will not believe the report; & most solemnly declare I hope I never shall see a disturbance in the Theatre again on my Acc^{t}, but the Public will ever take the part of y^{r} oppress'd. I have no thought or inclination of calling them to judge betwixt us. & wou'd wish our differences might be referr'd to some mutual Friend. In the mean time I again offer to return to my Business on the same terms I had before agreed with you for. you told me some time ago you thought my Salary inadequate to my Labours & promis'd me to speak to the gentlemen concern'd with you to make me an additional consideration.

As y^{r} Theatre will not open for above a week, I still hope our disagreements may be ended happily & once more offer to join on terms of Peace & good manners, if I cannot on better.

I am, S^{r},

Y^{r} very H^{be} Serv^{t}

W. Smith.

I am in Beaufort Buildings & shall stay in Town.

Saturday 11th Sept^{r}

Excuse this paper as I have no better by me.

G. Colman Esq^{r}

Answer.

Sir,

After your pronouncing my last letter to be ill-natured & uncivil, a further Comment was certainly needless. I did not mean it should appear either; tho' I cannot think the epistle, to which it was an answer, tended to inspire good humour, or produce compliments.

I am not so careless of the Property which I am destined to superintend, as to wish to banish you from the Theatre, to which (if you please) you may be so serviceable; but I firmly believe that whoever strives to create disturbances in it, will at last find that the Publick will give as little encouragement to causeless turbulence as to tyranny and oppression. Each are equally destructive of peace and good government.

The matter of business between us stands thus. You are offered your late salary; & you recur to an agreement formerly proposed by me — an agreem[t] however which you would never

complete, & which you have since again & again rejected in the most absolute terms.

I do not wish to delay bringing matters to a conclusion for a single moment; but as you consult your friends on every occasion, you cannot think it improper in me to advise with the other Managers; & there is not at present one of them in London. Before I rec'd your letter to-day I proposed being in town next Friday; — yet would have attended you here immediately but for the reason just mentioned.

By that day however, or at all events by the day of our opening, I promise to give in our ultimate Ultimatum & hope to settle articles of a Definitive Treaty between us.

I am

Y^rs &c

Richmond

Sept. 12. 1773.

From William Smith.

I rec^{d} your favor & assure you I look forward for peace & good humour. I cannot give up my Claim of the Advance in my Salary. I dont wish to hurry you in your determination. If it brings us together, Let us meet cordially & chearfully without retrospect of former disagreements.

I am, S^{r},

Y^{r} most hble Serv^{t}

W Smith.

Beau^{r} Build^{s}
Tuesday morn
Sep^{r} 14. 1773.

George Colman Esq^{r}

From the Magistrates in Bow Street.

THE Magistrates now sitting in Bow Street present their Compliments to Mr Coleman, and acquaint him that on the Beggar's Opera being given out to be played some time ago at Drury Lane Theatre they requested the Managers of that Theatre not to exhibit this Opera, deeming it productive of mischief to Society as in their Opinion it most undoubtedly increased the Number of Thieves, and that the Managers obligingly returned for Answer that for that Night it was too late to stop it, but that for the future they would not play it if the other house did not. Under these Circumstances from a Sense of Duty and the Principles of Humanity the Magistrates make the same request to Mr Coleman and the rest of the Managers of his Majesty's Theatre Royal Covent Garden; the same Opera being advertised to be played there this Night

Bow Street
October 27. 1773

Answer.

Mr Colman presents his Best Respects to the Magistrates with whose Note he has been just honoured. He has not yet had an opportunity of submitting it to the other Managers, but for his own part cannot help differing in opinion with the Magistrates, thinking that the Theatre is one of the very few houses in the Neighbourhood that does not contribute to increase the number of Thieves.

Covent Garden —
Wednr Mornr

From Henry Woodward. *

Jan^{y} 16th 1774.

Dear Sir,

I REJOICE that every thing went last night better than you expected — every Measure *you* have taken, *I* should have taken had I been in your Situation. — and I look upon myself as much oblig'd to you for every Part of your Conduct towards me during my Indisposition. — I think with you that it wou'd be indiscreet to announce my Performance, till there is a *certainty* of my being able to do so — I am now in a fair Way, and I hope nothing unforeseen will happen to hinder my speedily shewing how willing I am to be, Sir,

Y^{r} Humble Serv^{t}

H. WOODWARD.

George Colman Esq^{r}

* The celebrated Comedian.

From William Ramus.

*St James's March 30. 1774.

Dear Sir,

I waited upon you this Evening, for the purpose of personally asking of you what I now do by Line; — Her Majesty wishes to have from You, the farewell Epilogue you wrote, & spoken by Miss Barsanti last Thursday, if you will let me have it before three o'Clock to-morrow I will deliver it to Her;

I am Dear Sir

Your most humbly Affectionate,

Wm Ramus.

P. S. I am happy at every opportunity of Corresponding with you.

George Colman Esqr

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* A Page to His late Majesty, King George the Third.

From Charles Macklin. *

Sir

According to my agreement with you and the other Proprietors of Covent Garden Theatre, my weekly Salary was due last Saturday, which I now demand.

at the Same time I give you notice that I am ready to play any part that you shall appoint me to play, and to perform my Engagement in every part of it, with you and the other Proprietors

* This was written at the period when Macklin had been driven from the stage, by the publick: — he made, I have heard, weekly applications for his salary, to keep his claims upon the Proprietors, relative to his engagement with them, alive. He, afterwards, prosecuted those who had been most active in his expulsion; and, upon his conduct in disposing of the damages he obtained, Lord Mansfield said to him, — "*You have met with great applause to day: you never acted better in your life.*"

of Covent Garden Theatre, whenever you shall call upon me for that purpose.

I am Sir

y^r hub^le Serv^t

CHARLES MACKLIN

May 20th 1774
James Street
Covent Garden

To

George Colman Esqr
Piazza
Covent Garden

From Several Actors of Covent Garden Theatre. *

SIR,

WE are extremely concerned at having any occasion to address you on a subject which has for its basis the most

* This relates to the Institution of the Covent Garden Theatrical Fund for the Benefit of the decayed Performers. My father was offended at the jealousy of the Committee, in rejecting his offer of kindness, and interference; and in consequence

distant supposition of our having been wanting in respect or attention to Mr Colman. — When this Institution was first set on foot, it was settled as one of the fundamental & irrevocable rules that no person whatever should be admitted a Member but such as were actually Performers at Covent Garden Theatre, and that the Trustees and Committee should be chosen from them only. Mr Beard, at that time, the acting Manager, being also a Performer, was admitted as a weekly contributor, & chosen a trustee, merely in that situation, totally separated from his other Character; he still continues a Trustee in consequence of another first rule, that the Trustees should remain unless a very apparent cause appear'd for changing them. This being the situation of the institution We assure ourselves that Mr Colman on this explanation will no longer entertain the most distant Idea of any slight or disrespect by not offering him a part in the direction of this society, and hope that he will not

did, I believe, refuse a Benefit Night in favour of their establishment. The present *Mr. Fawcett*, as Treasurer to this Fund, has very greatly advanced it's prosperity, by his zeal in the conduct of it's concerns.

not withdraw his usual Indulgence of a Benefit, but believe us very truly

his obliged & obed^{t} Servants

W^{m} Smith
Geo. Mattocks
J. C. Reinhold
Tho^{s} Hull
Rob^{t} Bensley
M. Clarke
Jos. Younger
Rich^{d} Rotton
J^{no} Dunstall.

Committee of the Theatrical Fund Oct^{r} 25th

To
George Colman Esq^{r}

From Thomas Aug^ne Arne. *

—— Dear Sir.

— Having receiv'd some private hints that M^r Mattocks (since the necessary improvements in Cutley's part) has, in conference with you, rather shew'd an inclination to retard the performance of Achilles, than forward it, I cou'd not (tho' I hate to write a sollicitous letter) resist the impulse of my fear on so alarming an occasion. — Wou'd any one think this man owes all his merit & success in his profession to me? All the answer I made was, that my reliance was on a Gentleman and a man of honour, who agreed to perform it this season, and whose word is to me an oracle. —

. For six months past, I have given my whole time & labour to this business — The first Act was finish'd and the music deliver'd to the Performers near three months past — The 2^d Act was ready before they were prepar'd for a rehearsal of the 1st.

* Doctor Arne, of musical fame.

The 3d Act came under the same predicament, and I have since (without an hour's delay) written 4 new songs for Cately & two for Rheinhold; so that I hope you will be of opinion that not the least blame can be laid on me.

—— Notwithstanding thé deserv'd success of Mother Shipton, The old Proverb — Store's no sore, will ever be true, And it has long been the practice of both Theatres to relieve a strong performance with another, in order to keep both in their full strength, & give the public that variety, which keeps curiosity awake and fills the houses every night. — This is only an observation drawn from the practice of you Gentlemen Managers; — not a prescription to Mr Colman, whose knowledge and attention require no Monitor.

—— Several noble friends of mine, two of which have mention'd this opera to the King, have earnestly inquir'd, to know the day fix'd for its performance; You wou'd therefore infinitely oblige me, if you wou'd enable me to give them a satisfactory answer; particularly, as to morrow I must attend their Catch club.

—— Will you, my dear Sir! be so kind, as direcly to order continu'd rehearsals of it, and (as I know you have little

leisure to write) be pleas'd only to send three words of comfort, to —

Your devoted Friend
& oblig'd humble Serv
— Thos Augne: Arne

— Janry y^e 28th.
— Tom's Coffee house.

To
— George Colman Esqr
in Great Queen Street.

From Arthur Murphy.

Dear Sir,

I am now with Mrs Heartley, and think a great deal better of her notions of the Part than I ever did before. What can I say decisively as to the main question, which is shall the Play be

* Barrister, Actor, Dramatist, and Author of various writings. There is no document to designate the particular Pieces to which his letter alludes.

done or not? — I have not determined with the People of Drury Lane: in all probability tomorrow will settle that matter. Should it be resolved to go on in the Business of the Comedy, it then will be for the 24th of January, or as near that day as possible. I cannot ask Mr Garrick to alter the arrangement he has made with other Authors. This brings us again to the same difficulty I mentioned this morning. If I am to be Engaged in the Rehearsal of a Play at one house, the Nature of the thing makes it impossible to attend another house. Mr Harris told me you meant to bring out the Tragedy in January: in these Circumstances that becomes impossible. I do not ask you, no more than I do Mr. Garrick, to alter your plan of Business, But if Both plans are proposed to subsist at the Same Time, then the Tragedy must be postponed. Of this I am clear that if it stood over to another year, it would be better than running any risk now by adventuring in too much hurry. For Mrs Heartley I will say, that Study and Leisure, will in my Judgement, do great things for her. If this Leaves you more in Suspence than you were before, Davus sum non Œdipus.

I am

Dr Sir,

Your most obedt Servt.

Arthur Murphy

Friday night.

I forgot tomorrow morning: — it falls out very Unluckily that I cannot Breakfast with you: I wish I could; but since I wrote to you to day, notice came in to attend a Commission of Bankrupts at nine in the morning: that carries me to Guild Hall, and when I shall get away, the Lord Knows

George Colman Esqr

From Thomas King.

D. S.

After what pass'd the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you, I shall not trouble you with an apology for sending the enclosed — which by the bye I had mislaid and cou'd not find till yesterday. The part of it which describes the Medal intended to.

* Who reached the summit of his theatrical reputation as the original *Lord Ogleby*, in the *Clandestine Marriage*; and maintained his fame for many years afterwards, till he retired from the Stage.

be presented, I have drawn my pen through, as the device is totally changed. Indeed I think a description of it wholly unnecessary; however, lest you shou'd be of a different opinion, I send you the best account of it I can. —

The design is by S^r^ Joshua Reynolds —— Two Busts on one term, Nature and Shakespeare; Garrick unveiling both at once, by through^s^. back a large piece of Drapery.

I am glad I have been able to prevail with the Gentlemen who drew the matter I send you, to give it up; and doubly so that they all seem to join me in the opinion that you are the Person most likely to draw up an address that may to futurity appear unexceptionable.

I am D^r^. S^r^.

Y^r^ well wisher

& very hble Serv^t^

Tho. King.

Great Queen Street
Feb^y^ 5^th^ 1777.

The following was written by the elder Colman.

THE Incorporated Actors belonging to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, humbly beg leave to present their Perpetual President, David Garrick Esq^r. with the Medal that accompanies this Address, in testimony of their gratitude for his having raised and supported by his excellent performance on the Stage, and finally established by an Act of Parliament obtained by his interest, and at his sole expence, the Theatrical Fund *; hoping he will condescend to wear this small memorial of their affection for him whenever he shall honour their meetings with his presence, as a faint token of their respect for his character as a Man, of their admiration of his unequalled Talents as an Actor, as well as an acknowledgement of the high sense they entertain of the honour and happiness they enjoyed under the direction of a Manager, whose virtues and abilities have so long and so justly been encouraged and applauded by the united voice of The Publick.

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* This Fund is distinct from that of Covent Garden.

The Letters to my Father written while he was concerned in the theatrical property of Covent Garden, close here. Those which follow relate to his treaty with *Foote*, for the Haymarket Theatre, and his subsequent management of that house.

*From James Colborne.**

8th October

Sir,

It is now near Ten oClock and I am but just come from M^r^ F with whom I think we shall soon settle this business, should the proceedings of the day meet Your approbation,—I was obliged to advance one hund^d^. before he would say any thing, and soon after he felt the same Sum ; I strove hard to Split the other hund: but he declared he would never take less than £1600 in which is to be included the unpublish'd Plays *during his Life* after which

* Instructed by Mr. Colman to treat with Mr. Foote.

they are to be his Boys, but should the Renters of the Patent be desirous of purchasing them he will take £500 now, tho' he cannot he says estimate them at less than £1000 if to be sold to the Trade.

I am now going to find M^r Rigg, in conjunction with him to draw up Articles, which I have promised to present on Thursday, before which time I don't doubt but I shall see or hear from You

I am

Sir

Your most Obed^t Serv^t

In^o Colborne

From the Same.

Sir

I presented the amended Articles to M^r F—— about 3 this Afternoon, which met with a most gracious reception — I proposed waiting on him tomorrow with the name and Person of the Princip^l. this time he told me he was sorry was incon-

venᵗ. to him, being particularly engaged on that day Wednesday & Thursday, but on Friday he shᵈ be happy if We would dine with him at 4 o'Clock at which time I promised to meet him and I hope will not be inconvenᵗ to You

I am

Sir

Your most obedᵗ

humble Servᵗ

Jnº Colborne

14 October
1776

To

George Colman Esqr
Richmond
Surry

From George Colman, the Elder.

My Dear Foote,

When I quitted Covent Garden I never thought of attending to a theatre any more, & accordingly declined the refusal of Garrick's Share of Drury Lane: but a report having prevailed some

time ago of your intention to part with your property, I was at length persuaded by my friends that such a theatrical situation, different in many essential respects from any other, would not be ineligible. At my instance therefore one of our common friends then applied to you to know your resolution, at wch time you declared the report to be ill founded, & I dropt all thoughts of the business — but having been told by several of our acquaintance, that you had lately signified your wish to find a purchaser, & even gone so far as to name your price, I again thought I might, without indelicacy or impertinence, enquire if you were serious. For this purpose I sent Mr. Co'borne to You; and tho' I am not so playhouse-mad as not to feel the largeness of the Sum he has agreed to on my behalf, nor so vain as to be unconscious of the many superior advantages you possest, yet I shall, without much fear & trembling, put the last hand to the bargain; only begging that You would not ascribe my reserve, hitherto, on this occasion to a wrong motive, as it proceeded from my unwillingness to give you unnecessary trouble, mixt with some little reluctance to appear in any theatrical negotiation, which was not likely to be concluded. My proposals however having met with your approbation, it is necessary for me to come forward, to complete them. I think I have property enough (independent of that which is to be contracted for) to make you quite easy about the payment of your Annuity: I shall not be pleased

if that & every other object of the Contract is not settled to your entire satisfaction — for I not only wish your solid interests to be consulted, but I am very desirous that we may appear to act like two friends, rather than a couple of mere dealers. I understood you were yourself of opinion that this matter should remain in silence for the present, & indeed I have some reasons for wishing that my name may not be made publick immediately — yet they are not so important as not to give way to your convenience or inclination.

I am, Dear Foote,
very faithfully Yours
G. COLMAN

Soho Square,
Oct^r. 18. 1776.

P. S.

What time do you expect M^r Colborne at North End? & when do you go yourself? I mean to follow you as soon as possible, for I long to speak to you.

From Samuel Foote.

My Dear Sir

I appointed Mr Coburne to dine with me this day when I shall be happy to see you.

I should certainly prefer you both as a Successor and a Pay Master I dont recolect any material alteration, but however we shall soon see one another

Yrs

most Sincerely

Saml Foote

• Suff. St — Fry.

George Coleman, Esqr

From John Henderson

Bath Feb^{y} 12th 1777.

Dear Sir

I SHOULD not so long have delayed the honour of writing to you if I had not been extremely busied wth new Characters & with the little interests of my Benefit, which is just over: I played *Leon* for the first time and think (if I may trust the compliments of my friends) that may be one of my Characters at the Hay-Market. I have also since you left Bath played *Oakly* in your incomparable Comedy & hope you will think me fit to be entrusted with it.

Several judicious friends here & in London have advised me to be careful of appearing in Shylock at *first* as they think M^{r} Maclin so strongly fixed in the prepossessions of the people as to make it very dangerous for me to attack that Character, I

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* *Henderson* writes previously to his first appearance in London, (at the Hay-Market Theatre,) in the year in which this letter is dated. He made his *début* in SHYLOCK, notwithstanding the fears he expresses relative to this character; and was engaged, afterwards, both in Covent Garden and Drury Lane. The laurels he acquired are fresh in recollection.

mean for my first appearance, besides the unfavorable impression which, they argue, such a Character will leave on peoples minds — what weight these will have on you Sir I know not but I must own I cannot help being biassed by them — It has been suggested to me that some *new* Char^r. would be safer, I mean by *new*, some *revived* Play as was the case for M^r. Powell, when you so judiciously altered *Philaster* for him — Your extensive knowledge of the Drama will at once determine if there is any dormant piece fit to be awakened, or in which *I* could awake to any advantage — if there is not, I submit to you whether I should not appear in *Hamlet*, or some other *natural* character.

Do you think Sir it would be improper to prepare an occasional *Prologue* which I might speak myself, or might be spoken of me? — I should be afraid to hazard these tedious egotisms if I did not recollect that you have thought it worth your while to engage me & will most probably think it worth your while to place me in the most advantageous light.

I am

Sir,

Y^r most obed^t.

h^ble. Serv^t.

J. HENDERSON

Geo. Colman Esq^r.
Soho Square
London

From John Edwin.

Bath 4 March 1777 *

Sir

The business of this Theatre lately has prevented me from turning any thoughts to other matters, which I hope you'll excuse, as I ought upon receipt of yours to have inform'd you that tho' I wish y^e^ admiral in London next Summer, the expence of travelling & Living there is so great, that without an addition to my Salary it will be impossible for me to undertake it; for if the boy goes my wife & another Child must accompany him. My own cast is inclos'd with a list of the few parts M^rs^ Edwin has

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* This year, in which my father first entered upon the management of the Hay-Market Theatre, was remarkable, in histrionick annals, for his bringing forward, during one short Summer Season, three new Performers so conspicuous in their art as *Henderson*, *Edwin*, and *Miss Farren*, now Countess of Derby. *Edwin*, indeed, had dragged through one Season (1775) in the Hay-Market, under Foote's management; but his talents were, then, so little exercised, tha the was considered to be *new* to the Town in the year 1777. — The son Edwin mentions was then a mere Child; and acted the Admiral, in the Farce of Lilliput, in the year on which this letter is dated.

done, who pretends to no great merit, but as numbers are sometimes wanted, she has a very good study & might upon an emergency supply the place of a better actress. If therefore with her assistance & Jack's performance you can add two Guineas P^r^ week to the three already promis'd, It will support me the summer & that only having a large family. I experienced some little difficulty last Summer from the smallness of my salary, & indeed should not have thought of London again if I hadn't some dependance on your good nature in placing me in a favorable light for the Salary you give is less even than M^r^ Foote's was, his being a Guinea each acting night, the truth of which M^r^ Jewell's book will evince. My Son has sung upon the Stage since you saw him & has gaind I think more reputation than he did as a speaker; his ear being remarkably good. If you approve of the above request shall take great pains to make the boy deserving of your notice

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

J. Edwin

George Colman Esqr
Soho Square
London

From John Henderson.

Bath March 16th. 1777.

Dear Sir

I perswade myself that you who are so well acquainted with the fatigues of a theatrical life will excuse my not having sooner replied to your favour of the 18th febr last

I hope you will not imagine that what I before urged to you proceeded from any diffidence whatever in your politeness or your kind intentions towards me, I submitted what I had heard on the subject to your consideration, not so much to be controverted as decided, I am convinced by your arguments and shall chearfully be governed by them

But you frighten me when you tell me that "much is expected from me" — I have experienced something of the severity of London Critics from Mr Woodfall who saw me here at the beginning of this Season, whose opinion contributes to fill me with apprehensions — he very kindly advises me to stay where I am, cultivate my private character, and resign all hopes of

fame and fortune to those who are better qualified by nature to contend for them — he allows me indeed to understand my Author, or to speak *as if* I understood him but that it seems is but a feeble Ballast against the ponderous objections that will be made to my figure, my voice, and my manner: — I remember too that those articles were so much insisted on by a Lady of this place that she publickly preferred another Actor in *Shylock* because he played it so like a *Gentleman*: this was surely a refinement on L.d Chesterfield, who fond as he was of the Graces would hardly have wished to see them hovering round "the Jewish Gaberdine" of Shylock —

I sincerely thank you Sir for the assiduity with which you promise to correct my faults & will express my gratitude by the most earnest endeavours to remove them. I am

Dear Sir
Your most obliged
& most obed.t
h.ble Serv.t
J. HENDERSON.

George Colman Esq.r
Soho Square
London.

From Horace Walpole. *

THE Author of *Nature will prevail* is extremely obliged to Mr Colman for his Civility; and sorry he cannot have the Courage to be known for an Author. He does not mean to give Mr Colman the Trouble of correcting his Farce, but, as he is very sensible of the little Merit there is in it, Mr Colman is perfectly at Liberty to make any Alterations in it he pleases, as he must be a much better Judge of what is proper for the Stage than the Writer can be. If Mr Colman has any thing else he wishes to say, the Bearer will attend him at any Time he shall appoint to receive a Note with his Commands.

To
George Colman Esq.

* He did not, at this time, avow himself as the Author of the Dramatick Proverb called "*Nature will Prevail.*"

From Richard Cumberland. *

Queen Ann Street
Saturday 3 o'Clock

Dear Sir

A friend of mine I believe has made you acquainted with a Rejection I have met from the propr of Covent Garden theatre. I have not presumption Enough in my own behalf to say they are not warranted in what they have done, neither am I attempting to traverse any Right, which is in them, & which they may properly exercise: At the same time I woud in no period of my life desert what may prove to be for the Interests of Literature in general, what Ridicule soever may fall upon me in the upshot. In this light I ask you, as a Scholar and an Author of Genius, if you have any objection to read & judge my piece. The rejection was peremptory, general, and prohibitory of any Reply; I moved in Arrest of Judgement, which I

* A Contributor to the Stage, and the Republick of Letters, so well known that he need not, now, be described.

had too much reason to call in question consider^{s} where it was lodged, but was denied an Appeal by the very Gentlemen, who not a week before had exhibited *the Man of Reason.* * My Tragedy cost me great pains & much attention; hath been many years in hand; is entirely original in plan, popular in it's subject & free of all Imitation.

The Opinions of Men exceeding high in the Republic of Letters have been unanimous & more than warmly in it's favour. You will not wonder if such Authority makes me hesitate about acquiescing under the *Veto* of a Junto of Proprietors, whose Education has not started with the Muses, & whose habits have been little calculated to make them Critics in literature. I shoud add that my Piece was accepted by M^{r} Garrick & had a place for this Season, but was withdrawn by me for reasons not worth troubling you with. I have faithfully told you it's history & wait your Decision with y^{e} respect with which

I am, Sir,
Y^{r} most obedient
Hum Serv^{t}
Rich^{d} Cumberland

* A Comedy, by *Hugh Kelly*, — acted only one night.

Answer.

Dear Sir,

With the present Directors of Covent Garden Theatre I was unfortunately engaged in a dispute, during more than half the time I was connected with them; & there have been some misunderstandings between us since our separation. My suffrage therefore in favour of your Tragedy would rather be ascribed to motives of ill will to them, than to a love of justice, & a laudable zeal for the honour of literature. There is not another man in the kingdom so peculiarly situated. I flatter myself therefore that you will, on these considerations, excuse my declining to read & judge of your Tragedy, whose merits may be rested so much more confidently on the testimony of those respectable opinions you have already collected.

I am Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

G. Colman.

Soho Square
Sat. Night.

I should have answerd your favour by the bearer, but could not withdraw from company with whom I was at that moment engaged.

From Sophia Lee. *

Sir,

Any longer to conceal myself would be failing in that confidence & respect your very polite reception of my Opera claims — the favorable opinion you are pleasd to express Sir highly flatters my vanity while it conduces to my interest, & you shall find by the deference with which I receive your sentiments that I have not an unbecoming arrogance in maintaining my own — I am very sorry it is not in my power to learn them from your lips, but have I must own one proof of mediocrity of talents — I mean a little prudence, which forbids my farther sacrificing a certain object in Life to an uncertain one; if you will oblige me with your objections by letter it shall be my first care to obviate or accede to them.

The letter which introduced the Opera was so true an account of my situation that it wanted only my Sex & Name — on only

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* *Miss Lee*'s letter refers to her popular Comedy of the *Chapter of Accidents*, which was produced in the Haymarket Theatre. It was once, we find, intended to be an Opera, — with *Catley* as *Bridget!*

one circumstance was I not perfectly explicit· since I gave a single reason for preferring Covent Garden while conscious of two — the strong desire of seeing Miss Catley appear in Bridget which was written absolutely for her — the infinite advantage attending this I need not I dare say Sir explain to you, nor how much pleasure it would give me still to hope it

In my own Character Sir I repeat my acknowledgments for that distinction shewn me as an Author, and in either shall always be happy to avow what is equally an honor to yourself and me

I am Sir

Your most obliged

Humble Servant

Sophia Lee

Bath Feb^{y} 21st 1780

P S I will trouble you Sir to address any future Favor to Miss Lee M^{rs} Cruss's Kings Mead Bath

George Colman Esq^{r}
Soho Square
London

From Richard Cumberland.

My dear Sir

Miss Farren is a spoilt Child and has done us more mischief by her hesitation, than she coud have done by a more peremptory refusal. I never saw Mrs Brooks, but cannot doubt your Judgement in putting the part into her hands, and shall thoroughly approve of whatever you direct. At the same time if you think that the Cast throughout is such as to make the Success more doubtfull, than ought to be risqu'd, I shall perfectly acquiesce in your opinion for withdrawing it. On the contrary if you approve of its representation, I have not the least hesitation about any Cast you shall give it, nor shall ever impute it's failure to any cause but it's own weakness. I own I shall be truly sorry to give a blow to your Theatre, where I am so anxious to contribute y^e best help in my power. If Bannister is pleasant with his part, I think we have no great cause to fear, and I shall chearfully come forward. Mrs Brooks's part is so short, that she will not impede the production, and I hope Mr Aickin is now content; I presume he is, by your not mentioning any thing to the contrary.

With respect to an Epilogue I was in hopes you would have given me one; I am a very bad hand at it myself, and if your

business is too pressing to turn your thoughts to y^e^ task, perhaps you can find a friendly poet in y^e^ humour to help us. In y^e^ meantime I will tack a few rhimes together as well as I can, and send them up to you, that no stop may be made at all events.

I am with great sincerity, Dear Sir,

Your most faithfull

& oblig'd Hum Serv^t^

R. CUMBERLAND

Saturday Morning
30 June.

From the Same.

Dear Sir

IN obedience to your Commands I write this very morning to Miss Farren as follows

" —— As you are born to have all mankind at your feet, you " will not refuse the addresses of an old poet, who is as much " devoted to your fame as any man can be: I am convinc'd that " it is not in my power either to write it up or to write it down, that " having tried hard for y^e^ former Attempt in y^e^ character of Lady

" Paragon, I now put your Excellence to y^e^ proof by desiring
" you to convince the Town that Lady Rustic cannot diminish
" your reputation with y^e^ Public, and will greatly add to your
" private merits by protecting y^e^ weak and feeble, who cannot
" stand without your support.

" Your hesitation to receive it shews only your judgement, but
" your acceptance will be a proof your good nature; Now I
" am so certain that the latter motive will prevail with you for
" condescending to my humble Rustic, that I anticipate my
" thanks, and accept y^e^ favor, as one which I shall strain my
" powers in future to repay." &c. &c.

I hope my suit will mollify, and I really do not doubt it. I thank you for y^e^ hint. Adieu!

R. Cum^p^

From the Same.

My Dear Sir,

I HAVE just rec^{d} your Letter, signifying Miss Farren's Comm^{ds} for transposing her Introductory Scene to the Second Act. Be it so! But I conclude it will be done with the hand of a master — or in other words, that *You* will transpose it yourself — therefore I rest in peace. For Heaven's sake write her an Epilogue; I have plung'd from thought to thought in the profound of nonsense and can fix upon nothing —

One sense is left me, y^{e} Sense of your kindness.

farewell.

R CUM.

Tuesday 11 o Clock.

Tunbridge Wells July third 1787

Geo. Colman Esq^{r} N^{o} 35
Gower street
Bedford Squa
London

Free
D Warherston

LETTERS

FROM

DAVID GARRICK,

TO

GEORGE COLMAN, THE ELDER.

Wednesday.

Sir,

I AM Extreamly oblig'd to you for your particular & Genteel Compliment to me * — and more so as I have not y^e^ Pleasure of your Acquaintance: I must assure you that I have more

* I fancy that this alludes to a pamphlet, written by my father, entitled "*Critical Reflections on the Old English Dramatick Writers; addressed to David Garrick, Esq^re^*, which was afterwards prefixed to Coxeter's edition of Massinger's works. The advice, indeed, which is given in it to Garrick, refers more to his management than to his acting; but if this were not the "genteel Compliment" sent by my father, I know not what it could be.

Pleasure than Uneasiness, when I read a true well intended Criticism, tho against myself — for I always flatter myself that I can attain the mark which my Friends may point out to me, & I really think myself neither too old or too wise to learn —. If you would still add to y^e^ favor confer'd upon me, I should wish to have y^e^ Pleasure of seeing You in Southampton Street or rather I will do myself y^e^ Pleasure of waiting upon You, when I return from y^e^ Country, If you will signify to me by a Line that it will not be inconvenient or disagreeable to you —

I am

S^r^

Your most oblig'd

& Obed^t^ Serv^t^.

D Garrick.

P. S. I shall return from Hampton the beginning of next week, a Line directed to me there (Hampton in Middlx) will be with me y^e^ next day —

To

*Geo. Colman Esq^r^*

at Serle's Coffee house

Lincolns Inn

Hampton

Thursday.

Dear Sir,

I am oblig'd to be from Hampton for a few Days: at my return, I will most carefully consider what You have put into my hands. * I must beg leave to read it more than once, before I send you my opinion, which shall at least be a Sincere one, & given with all y^e^ Care that my Regard for the Author will always require from Me.

I have indeed been very unfortunate in my Litterary attachments, but I flatter myself, both from y^e^ little acquaintance I have with M^r^ Coleman & from y^e^ Knowledge of my own heart, that He will have nothing to urge against my Sincerity, however we may differ in our Judgments.

* Most likely, the farce of *Polly Honeycombe*, the first dramatick production of the elder Colman; first acted in the year 1760, — and with great success.

You may depend upon my Secresy in this affair, & may Expect to receive a Letter from Me directed as You desire, in about a Week or ten Days.

I am Dear Sir,

Your most Obed^{t}

& Sincere hum^{le}

Serv^{t}

D: Garrick

I am very sorry that I could not have y^{e} Pleasure of y^{r} Company next week wth D^{r} Markham & M^{r} Bedenf^{d}

My dear Sir

I have this moment took a peep at the house for the Author of *Polley Hon.* The Pit & Galleries are cram'd — the Boxes full to the last Rows — & Every thing as You & I could wish for our Friend — I am most happy about it & could not help communicating it to one, O so much love & Esteem — pray let me see you at y^{r} arrival — the second Music — & time for me to put on my Fools' Coat —

Y^{rs} Ever & most affec^{ly}

D. Garrick

P. S. I cannot cut y^e^ Jeal. W. * without y^r^ participation. hurry Scurry as usual.

To G. Colman Esq

My dear Sir,

As I am confident that you are well assur'd of my Goodwill & Friendship to you, I shall open my heart to you — I have had Burton with me to settle & go over y^e^ Part of Oakly — I have consider'd it thoroughly & I find that it will be impossible for me to get it so soon into my head as I imagin'd; it is very long & particular, & will require more time to be master of it than I can well spare — I have not slept these three nights last past — these matters have so perplex'd and distrest me — M^r^ Murphy has kept us off so long and Lovemore (my Character) is so much more than I Expected that I must desire you to let

* The Comedy of *the Jealous Wife*, by Colman the elder; which, as it appears from this postscript, was, on the appearance of Polly Honeycombe, already submitted by him to Garrick.

me take a less Part y^e^ Major, or S^r^ Harry, or Charles, I have no Objection to any of 'em — If M^r^ Hume will defer his performance to y^e^ next Year to which purpose I shall write immediately to him, I can Master Oakly very well by y^e^ time * — but he is so connected with L^d^ Bute & a much greater personnage, that I must be a little delicate in that Business — I wish that you would call upon me any morning this week & let us consult, for I am at present very unhappy about it. I am this moment going upon y^e^ Stage, but am at all times & in all Circumstances

Most truly
Y^rs^
D. Garrick.

Tuesday.

To
G. Colman Esqr
Lincolns Inn

† After all, *Garrick* was the original *Mr. Oakly.*

July 10th 1763

Dear Colman

Many thanks to you for Terræ filius *— it is very lively, & I long to see y^r^ second Number —

pray write to me, & let me know how y^r^ Town speaks of our Friend Churchill's Epistle † — it is the most bloody performance that has been publish'd in my time — I am very desirous to know the opinion of People, for I am really much, very much hurt at it — his description of his Age & infirmities is surely too shocking & barbarous — is Hogarth really ill, or does he meditate revenge? — Every article of news about these matters will be most agreeable to me — pray write me a heap of stuff for I cannot be easy till I know all about Churchill Hogarth &c — how did the Terræ filius work at Oxford?

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* Essays, to which the elder Colman contributed, were published under this title; and another periodical work, so called, had appeared, many years before. Few men of letters are ignorant of the privilege formerly exercised by a *Terræ Filius* of satirising his superiors, in a speech from the rostrum, at the *Publick Acts*, in Oxford. This custom, now abolished, was derived from the liberties allowed to the low orders, during the Roman *Saturnalia*.

† See his "Epistle to William Hogarth," — a most bitter, and, indeed, unmanly attack.

have you yet receiv'd any Letter from Lord Bath? pray be particular in *that*; for tho my Curiosity is much concern'd in my former Questions, my heart & soul are interested in the last —

Y^rs Ever
my Dear Colman
D. Garrick

M^rs Garrick presents her respects to you —
All y^e News —

Enclose y^r Letter to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire
at Chatsworth
(by y^e Chesterfield) Derbyshire
Bag.

If you should be in town when you write, pray send any letters that may be at my house in the same Cover.

To
George Colman Esq^r
at Richmond
in
Devonshire *Surry.*

Monday
18th

My dear Colman,

I have half a moment to let you know, that I receivd your last agreeable packet — I thank you from my soul for your literary turtle — Quin never Eat half so much, or so greedily, of the real one, as I did of that you sent me — it was all green fat, & I have been at it again & again.

I think *Newberry** behav'd very ill to you, & deserv'd Correction, but I am so delicate about *Women*, that I could wish that she had been exempted from y^e^ lash —— I hope that you & yours are in possession of M^rs^ Garrick's Horse — I am sure that he will answer your Ends. I shall be in London next Thursday sen'night & hope to see you there — My Lord Duke (the best & most honourable of men) speaks often of you, & with great desire of knowing you. — were you near us, you would be happy

* The bookseller.

to be with us — all Mirth, Bagatelle, Liberty, & a little drinking at times –

Yours Ever

& Affec^y

whilst

D Garrick

The Duke of Cumberland is to be here y^e 26^th. which makes our going sooner than we thought or his Grace desir'd.

My dear Colman.

Tho I have said in George's * Letter that I would not write to you till I got to Lyons, yet I can't help scribbling to you, for indeed my dearest friend there is no Love lost between us —

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* *George Garrick*, his brother; who was always ready at his call. George usually inquired, every night, on coming behind the Scenes, at Drury Lane, " has *David* wanted me?" On it's being idly asked how George came to die so soon after the demise of his celebrated relation, the answer was, — *David wanted him.*

I am vastly happy that Powel * strikes you so much in the Rehearsal — He will surprize, & I most cordially wish it, for I think him a very worthy man — pray take care that the Play is quite ready before He makes his appearance.

You can't imagine, my dear Colman, what honours I have receiv'd from all kind of People here † — the Nobles & the Litterati have made so much of me that I am quite asham'd of opening my heart ev'n to You. Marmontel has wrote me y^e^ most flattering Letter upon our supping togeather,‡ I was in Spirits & so was the *Clairon*, § who sup'd with us at M^r^ Neville's. She got

* See former letters, in regard to *Powell.*

† At *Paris.*

‡ Of *Marmontel*, and *D'Alembert*, afterwards mentioned, who has not heard?

§ The *Claïron* was highly distinguished in her day, for her superior talents as, an actress, upon the French Stage.

" Clairon réunit les suffrages
Des plus habiles connoiseurs;
Et son Jeu des meilleurs Auteurs
Fait encor valoir les Ouvrages."

Anecdotes Dramatiques.

up to set me a going & spoke something in Racine's Athalie most charmingly — upon which I gave them the Dagger Scene in Macbeth, y^e^ Curse in Lear, & the falling asleep in S^r^ John Brute, the consequence of which is, that I am now star'd at at y^e^ Playhouse, and talk'd of by Gentle & Simple as y^e^ most wonderfull wonder of wonders — the first Person I find going to England shall bring you Marmontel's Letter — D'Alembert was one of y^e^ Company & Sings my praises to all y^e^ Authors of the ENCYCLOPEDIE. I am glad to hear of y^e^ Prologue, if they love to hear me abus'd, they will have great pleasure this winter, for I am told they have begun already, but I am happy & in Spirits, & shall not read any Newspapers on this side the Alps — many thanks to you for y^e^ trouble you take about the *Invasion**, cut as you please — I leave it to you — as for *Midsummer Nights*, † &c. I think my presence will be necessary to get it up as it ought — however if you want it, do for the best — & I'll Ensure It's Suc-

* Harlequin's Invasion, probably; it was produced, however, in the year 1759, before the period at which this letter was written.

† Shakespeare's Play, altered by Garrick, and performed (during his absence) in 1763, — but without success.

cess — M^r^ Calcraft's behaviour astonishes me, but I hope Lacy will be firm — pray continue in his good Graces for my Sake.

I believe I forgot to pay a little bill for y^e^ Gazeteers, owing to one *Owen*, y^t^ bill lay in my Study window, will you discharge it for me, & pay for a pair of Spectacles I bought & forgot at y^e^ optician's (I forgot his name) at Charing Cross: it is on y^r^ left side going down to Whitehall — I hate to be in debt & if you or George will clear me there I shall thank you most sincerely — I am this moment going to see a new piece at y^e^ Italian Comedy, & last Night I saw a new one at y^e^ french Comedy, taken from our Tancred & Sigismunda, it had very indifferent success, but y^e^ Clairon was great; she has her faults (beween you & me) but I don't say so here, for she idolizes me —

God bless you my dear Colman, & have a corner of y^r^ eye upon my theatricals, I think you have begun well & may continue it, if my Partner will be advis'd & stick tightly to his Business — he behaves well & I most sincerely wish for all our sakes that he may not want me — I have desir'd George to write his

* Lacy was Garrick's partner, in Drury Lane Theatre.

next Letter to Florence, pray put in a postscript that I may comfort myself in foreign parts with y^e^ sight of y^r^ most agreeable scrawl — once more my worthy Friend Adieu! — My Wife sends her Love to you de bon Cœur —

Ever & Ever

Yours & Yours

D. GARRICK

George has my direction to Florence

A Monsieur
Monsieur Garrick
chez le Marquis Friscobaldi et fils
a Florence. *

To
*George Colman Esq^r^*
of Lincolns Inn
London.

* The frequency of Garrick's performance having, naturally, decreased his attraction, he determined on a two years' Tour to the Continent, whence he writes this and the ten following letters.

Naples Dec^{r} 24. 1763.

My dear Colman

Per varios casus we are at last arriv'd at our journey's End — and a very long one it has been — I have now time to shake my feathers a little, & open my heart to thee, thou best of friends! — We got to this place the 17.th, after a most disagreeable Journey from Rome, for we were taken in the midst of y^{e} heavy rains here, and were well soak'd with them all the way — at present the weather is inconceivably fine, & we are basking ourselves in a warm sun with the Mediterranean at our feet, and Mount Vesuvius in our view — tho it is Xmas, we have green Peas Every day & dine with our windows open — these are our Pleasures in part, as for our distresses, which have been as ridiculous as unexpected since we left Rome & are the common occurrences upon this Road, I shall reserve them for our social hours at Hampton — We are all at this moment, Biddy not excepted *, in the highest Spirits, & I am much y^{e} better for my expedition: My Lady Oxford, who is settled here & has the

* I know nothing about Biddy.

greatest Interest with the first People, has been most uncommonly kind to us — I am to have the honour & satisfaction of seeing the King's Italian Actors perform before him in y^e^ Palace, which is a most extraordinary favour; they perform Extempore, & the Nobleman, who stands in the place of y^r^ Lord Chamberlain has sent me word, that if I will write down any dramatic Fable & give the Argument only of the Scenes, in 24 hours after, they shall play it before me as y^e^ greatest Comp^t^ they can pay me — I shall work at it to morrow — I hear there is one great Genius among the Performers — the Situation & Climate of this place are most extraordinary, & the People are still more so; they are a new race of beings, & I have the highest Entertainment in going amongst them, & observing their Characters from y^e^ highest to y^e^ lowest — I was last night at their great Theatre, which is a most magnificent one indeed; I was really astonish'd at first coming into it — it was quite full, & well lighted up — but it is too great*, & the singers were scarcely heard — the famous *Gabrielli* pleas'd me much; she has a good person, is the

* If any one be curious enough to ascertain the dimensions of the Theatre here mentioned, (of San Carlo, it is presumed,) he may, then, possibly discover Garrick's opinion, though posthumously given by him, in respect to the magnitude of the present Playhouses in Drury Lane and Covent Garden.

best Actress I ever saw on an Opera Stage, & has the most agreeable voice I ever heard; she sings more to the ear than to y^e^ heart — before I left Florence I had much Conversation with an old Servant of y^r^ Father's, who lives with S^r^ H. Mann — he remembers your being born, & shew'd me the house where you *first wawl'd & cry'd*, I look'd at it for ten minutes with pleasure — I need not tell you how well I am prepar'd to set you right, if you sh^d^ hereafter make any mistakes about your Age, & I fear that we already differ a year or two in the Calculation — I cannot quit you till I say something about ROME: I hardly slept the night before I arriv'd there with y^e^ thoughts of seeing it — my heart beat high, my imagination expanded itself, & my Eyes flash'd again, as I drew near the *Porta del Popolo;* but the moment I enter'd it, I fell at once from my Airy Vision & Utopian Ideas into a very dirty ill looking *place* (as they call it) with three crooked streets in front, terminated indeed at this End with two tolerable Churches — w^t^ a disappointment! my Spirits sunk & it was w^th^ reluctance that I was drag'd in the afternoon to see the Pantheon — but my God, w^t^ was my Pleasure & Surprize! — I never felt so much in my life as when I enter'd that glorious Structure: I gap'd, but could not speak for 5 minutes — It is so very noble, that it has not been in y^e^ Power of Modern Frippery or Popery (for it is a Church you know) to extinguish Its grandeur & Elegance — Here I began to

think myself in *Old* Rome, & when I saw the ruins of the famous amphitheatre —

Omnis Cæsareo cedat labor Amphitheatro — I then felt my own littleness — & was convinc'd that the Romans were as much superiour to the Moderns in Every thing, as Vespasian's Amphitheatre was to Broughton's * — it is impossible, my dear Colman, to have any Idea of these things from any Prints that have been made of 'Em, — all modern performances look better upon paper, but these Ruins are not to be conceiv'd, but *by the sensible and true Avouch of your own Eyes.* tho I am pleas'd, much pleas'd with Naples, I have such a thirst to return to Rome, as cannot possibly be slak'd till I have drank up half y^e^ Tiber, which, in it's present state, is but a scurvy draught neither. it is very strange that so much good poetry sh^d^ be thrown away upon such a pitiful River; it is no more Comparable to our Thames, than our modern Poets are to their Virgils & Horaces — I was so taken up for y^e^ fortnight I was at Rome in seeing ruins, Statues Pictures & Palaces, that I had not the least inclination to see his Holiness, & his troop of Cardinals, tho they had two or three publick days when I was there — I shall have their blessings in y^e^ holy Week.

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* *Broughton*, of pugilistick memory.

I attend Lord & Lady Spencer to-morrow to *Herculaneum*, where, I am told, they have dug up Every Utensil that were in use among the Romans, & have got ev'n a Lady's Toilette entire — the Lady herself was found dressing herself & in y^e^ act of sticking a bodkin into her hair; which bodkin is of a most Elegant make, not much unlike a modern one, with the difference of a Jupiter or Minerva carv'd at the End of it: next week we shall mount to see y^e^ top of Vesuvius; it is a most terrible Object indeed, & y^e^ greatest natural wonder I ever yet saw — in short we are Encompass'd with classical prodigies & when we shall be able to get out of this Enchanting Circle, I cannot possibly tell — I shall write the next post to Brother George, from whom I expect a letter very soon, tho I receiv'd one from him, and another from You at Rome — direct your next, as I desir'd before, A Monsieur Mounsieur Fran^o^ Barazzi Banquier a Rome — or rather, to Me chez Mons^r^ Fran^o^ Barazzi &c. — I have seen y^e^ S^t^ James's Chron: here, & from thence & other papers, I see that the *Deuce is in him** goes on as my heart could wish — I have seen letters, where *King* is much prais'd & *Miss Plym* — but surely *O'Brien* & *Pope* must bear y^e^ belle. the poor Mids. Night's

* A Farce by the Elder Colman; — in which King acted Prattle; Miss Plym, Md^lle^ Florival; Obrien, Colonel Tamper; and Miss Pope, Emily.

Dream I find has failed by a Letter in y^e^ Chron^le^ : — I know y^e^ Author & love him tho he abuses the *Grown* Gentlemen & ladies —

M^rs^ Cibber, I find, is still prudent, & will run no risques of reputation to support poor Old Drury, to whom she has many, many obligations — What is become of y^e^ *Invasion*, y^e^ *Dupe* *, & y^e^ *new Entertainment;* I hope I shall have some account of 'Em, & a good one, in your next. how does Powell go on? — does he keep or lose his ground — if he is to be advis'd don't let him play y^e^ fool, as others have done; remember me to all of them, that you think deserve my remembrance; send me some News, dear Colman, as soon as you receive this — my Love to George — I have not yet receiv'd his letter to Florence: If Clutterbuck is among you my best affections to him too, & thank him for his delightfull letter & tell him I hope to have y^e^ *solid pudding* instead of y^e^ *praise* — I think hitherto that my Plan of Operations have been as nearly follow'd, as y^e^ Circumstances w^d^ admit of, so that be y^e^ success good or bad, I have my share of y^e^ *praise* as well as of y^e^ *pudding* — that for Clutterbuck — pray desire George to let me

* *The Dupe*, a Comedy, by M^rs^ Frances Sheridan; produced 1764, and condemned.

know how David* & all his Children are (particularly) in his next — My Wife sends her Love to *Him* & *You* & *Clutterbuck*;

Your Story of Hubert & his family have not surpriz'd me, as we rec'd a Letter from M^rs^ Hubert & one from Castlefranc: there never sure was such a mean Scoundrel† — He had no way to Excuse the meanness of his behaviour to us but by pretending a falsehood — I was an Entire Stranger to y^e^ whole upon my honour, so y^t^ it is impossible my Wife could suspect y^t^ her Jewels were chang'd without acquainting me with it — proof positive — M^rs^ Hubert might have spar'd herself y^e^ trouble of sending such a letter after M^rs^ Garrick to Florence, & she will be sorry that she writ it when she knows y^e^ truth, as I suppose she may before this — What is become of my friend Garnier? — if he's in London pray my Love to Him, we could wish to meet him in Italy, I fear that he will set out next Spring, & then we shall not see him, as our intentions are to go through Germany from Venice, & so by Brussels, & not return to

* A nephew, I believe, of Garrick.

† Who was the *scoundrel*, is, *here*, a little equivocal; — but it could not have been Hubert; for at the end of this letter Garrick says his "*heart overflows*" to Hubert and others. — Castlefranc was a jeweller.

Paris — pray let me know his Motions — What is become of your Terence? I have not yet wrote a Word of y^e^ 4^th^ or 5^th^ of the *Clandestine Marriage* *, but I am thinking much about it — We are made so much of (as M^r^ Cadwallader) by your Dukes & Earls & Barons & Baronets, that I have not a moment for thinking — Churchill's affair makes me unhappy — what are you doing with Wilkes? — is not he undone? or will they go *too far*, & give him once again y^e^ advantage? — & w^t^ will he do with it when he has it? — My heart overflows to Schomberg, Townley, Hubert & I am

Ever & most affect^y^

thine my dear Friend

D. Garrick

P. S. I have in my hurry forgot this blank side but you can make it out — my Wife & I desire you'll present our Respects to Lord Bath — I do assure You if * * * I should not be so Easy with the flirtation that his Lordship sends, & M^rs^ Garrick receives so warmly; however I am in a Country y^t^ will teach me how to secure my honour under lock & key, & I hope

* The joint production of the elder Colman and Garrick.

to return to England with less apprehensions of his Lordship — my best wishes to M^r^ Burney I shall write soon to him.

A Monsieur
Monsieur Colman
in Lincolns-Inn
a Londres
Ingleterra

Rome April 11^th^ 1764.

My dear Colman,

Tho' I resolv'd in my last letter to George not to trouble you any more till I got to Venice, yet I cannot hold it out so long, but must say a word or two more to you from this Place; which of all Places in the World is the most worth coming to & writing about — to shew you, that I think so, You must know that I am antiquity-hunting from morning to night & my poor Wife drags her lame leg after me: by y^e^ bye she is now much better, & we have hopes of her being able to run away again from me, if she can meet w^th^ another Capt^n^ Caswell; She desires her love to you, & thanks you for writing to me, as I am sure to be always in Spirits for some time after y^e^ receipt of a letter from You: I have not been quite so well here as at Naples, which is rather extra-

ordinary; whether I fatigu'd myself too much, or whether y^e^ Climate does not suit me so well, I can't say, but I have had some disagreeable nervous flutterings that made me as grave an Owl for a few days, but since y^e^ rains have fall'n (& they came down here in Pailfulls) & y^e^ Sun is bright upon us, I have been as frisky as y^e^ poor flys, who were woefully damp'd by y^e^ wet weather, but are now as troublesome & as pert as your humble Servant — His Holyness the Pope is trying by prayers tears & intercessions to avert the Famine which his State is threaten'd with — He has crept up the holy stairs (santa Scala) w^ch^ were brought from Jerulasem, he has order'd processions & what not — We are not so bad, as they are at Naples, for there indeed the Tragedy was deep — I remember some Scenes w^th^ horror, & since we came away, many People have dropt down in y^e^. Street, & been taken away dead, from mere want of food — our Prospect at Venice is rather worse, for we hear that y^e^ Plague has spread as far as Trieste, & that they begin to talk of Quarantine in y^e^ Neighbouring States, if so, we shall run y^e^ gauntlet terribly, but we are not dismay'd, & must go thro' with it. — I must thank you again for the trouble & Care you have had about Count Firmian's books — He is very happy at y^e^ Execution of y^e^ Commission, and was highly pleas'd with your sending your own matters to him gratis — it pleas'd me much — I have not seen a S^t^. James's Chronicle since the End of Jan^y^ — if I have them I

wish you w^d^ desire George to keep them for me to rummage over when I came to England — M^r^: Baldwin * I hear is no friend to our house — a propos — I am very angry with *Powell* for playing that detestable part of Alexander — Every Genius must despise it, because that, & such fustian-like Stuff, is the bane of true merit — If a man can act it well, I mean to please y^e^ People, he has something in him that a good actor sh^d^ not have — he might serv'd M^rs^. Pritchard, & himself too, in some good *natural* character: I hate your Roarers — Delane † was once a fine *Alexander* — damn y^e^ Part — I fear 'twill hurt him — but this among ourselves — I was told by a Gentleman who is just come from *Sterne* ‡, that he is in a very bad way — I hope *Becket* has stood my Friend in regard to what he ought to have receiv'd for me, some time ago — I had a draught upon him from Sterne for 20 p^ds^ Ever since he went abroad — pray hint this to him, but let him

* Printer and Proprietor of that Paper.

† "Delane's person and voice were well adapted to the parts he generally acted: Alexander the Great was his most admired and followed character; and his success in that part brought him from Goodman's Fields to the more critical Audience of Covent Garden." *Davies's Life of Garrick.*

‡ The *Tristram Shandy Sterne*; who died on the 18th of March 1768, a little more than four years after the date of this letter.

not be ungentle with Sterne — I have sent the plan of a fine Scene & colour'd, among some small things in a little Box of M^r. Stanley's of y^e Custom-house — it is in several parts & wrote upon y^e back which is 1^st 2^d &c. — I will send a further explanation of it, but any Italian & our *Saunderson* will understand it — they sh^d go upon it directly, it will have a fine Effect. Many thanks to you for y^r attendance on the Pantomime — I am sure they wanted help — no more humour than Brickbats — I am affraid that *Love* * in humourous matters carries too much Gut to be Spirited — flip flaps, & great changes without meaning may distil from the head, whose Eyes are half asleep ; but humour, my dear Coley, & scenes that shall be all alive alive ho, can only proceed from men of small stature, whose Eyes are Either quite asleep or quite awake, — in short, from men who laugh heartily, & have small scars at y^e ends of their noses † — I am surpriz'd about Murphy, & want to know how he ——— ‡ from M^r Lacy —

* *Vide* a former mention of him.

† This is a complimentary allusion to my father; — an allusion *ad hominem*, and *ad nasum*.

‡ A word omitted in the MS.

—poor Lloyd * ! & yet I was prepar'd — the death of any one we like don't shock us so much when we have seen them long in a lingring decay — Where is y^e^ bold Churchill ? — what a noble ruin ! — when he is quite undone, you shall send him here, & he shall be shewn among y^e^ great fragments of Roman Genius — magnificent in Ruin ! — I have wrote this on purpose to tell you that *Voltaire* in his Additions *a l'Histoire Generale*, at page 183 under *Usages du Seizieme Siecle*, says something about translating Plautus into Verse that will be of use in y^r^ preface to Terence — Speed y^r^ Plow my d^r^ friend. have you thought of the *Clandestine M.* ? I am at it — I must desire you to write to me once more & direct a Mons^r^ Mons^r^ G-Gentilhomme Anglais chez Monsieur Dutens a Turin, & I shall get it by hook or by crook: Pray send me all kind of news — a Letter from you will comfort me in bad roads, & thro plague & famine — so write I beg as soon as you receive this — desire George to speak to M^r^. Stanley about my things in his box — my Love to all the Schombergs, Townleys, Kings, Hogarths, Churchills, Huberts &c. &c. &c. Y^rs^ most affectionately Ever

D. G.

Dav^d^ Garrick —

Remember me kindly at home —

A Monsieur
Monsieur Colman
in the new Square Lincolns Inn
Inghilterra *London.*

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* The Poet; friend of Churchill, Colman, and Bonnell Thornton.

Venice June 12th 1764.

Dear Colman

I SHALL leave this Place to morrow & return to Padua in order to be near the famous Mud of Abano, which the Physicians here tell us, will certainly restore Mrs Garrick. She is not worse, but she continues lame & the Continuance is very allarming — I fret to be at home, I dread the Italian Suns, & I am affraid that my presence is necessary to make a Plan for ye next Winter — If I can be at home a Month before y^e opening of y^r house, I shall think that I have done wonders — I shall try all my might to compass it — this Venice is the most particular Place in ye whole world — it glares upon you at first, & inchants you, but living a month here (like y^r honey moon) brings you to a temperate consideration of things, & you long for your terra firma liberty again — I am tir'd to death; tho I have seen here such sights I had no Conception of but in Fairy land, & have seen the Visions of the Arabian Nights realiz'd by the Venetian *Regate;* This Show was given the 4th of this Month in honour of our King & to entertain the Duke. I shall be a week in telling you all I saw & felt that Day. Such Elegant luxury! which plainly shew'd, that the Contrivers were as little formidable in war & Politicks, as they were superiour to all ye World as Managers of a Puppet-

Shew — I have taken my Evening Walks of Meditation on the Rialto, & have fancy'd myself waiting for my friend Pierre, but the whole Idea has vanish'd at the Sight of a Venetian Noble, who can give you no Idea in look & in dress but that of an Apparitor to a Spiritual Court in the Country —

but then their Courts of Justice! & their Lawyers! If there is any thing more particularly ridiculous than another, it is one of their Pleadings — It was some Minutes before I recover'd my Senses, & when I found I was really awake & in a Court of Justice, I was ready to burst w^th^ laughter — it is inconceivably strange, & more whimsical & outrée than the Italian theatre — & yet all sober People agree that their decrees are generally just & impartial.

I have been buying Pictures & books & am scarce able to hold my Pen with fatigue — I have no Joy now in thinking on y^e^ Stage, & I shall return (if I must) like a Bear to the Stake — and this baiting, my good friend, is no joke after forty. —

pray tell George that I hope he has written me a long letter to *Ausburgh* w^th^ a full acc^t^ of what Business is ready for y^e^ Campaign — I have been thinking of it seriously — I am in treaty w^th^ a fine Dancer, & hope to succeed at Padua — pray write me

a letter A Mons^{r} Mons^{r} Amman Banquier a Ausburgh, & I shall receive it in my way to England — send me word what People really say about me, & what you think of our affairs.

I have rec'd an obliging letter from Powell — his playing himself to rags astonishes me! — what can be y^{e} meaning of it? — damn Alexander — O horrible horrible &^{c}! — Delane got credit by that Stuff — damn it, I say again —

I believe after all that you had better write to me at Calais sometime after you receive this & not to Ausburgh — After that sweating, tedious Journey, a long letter from you will be consolation indeed — Let George write too — I hope y^{e} great Scene w^{ch} Saunders was preparing is getting ready — I have rec^{d} George's last — God bless you.

Inghilterra
To George Colman Esq^{r}
in the new Square
Lincoln's Inn London

Paris Novr 10th 1764

My dear Colman

I OBEY yr friendly Commands, & write the first post — I have for a long time (I hope it will never be so long again) been impatient for a letter from you: I hope you did not direct any letter to Nancy, as I desir'd, for I found not one for me there. I could wish that George wd Enquire if Mr Beighton of Egham recd my letter, & whether he answer'd it, if he did, that likewise is lost; tho in general I have been very lucky in those matters — You say that you want to talk with me, & have many, many things to say to me — I do assure You, that I never close my Eyes without believing that I am Emptying all my Store of friendly prattle into your Ears, & receiving Yours into mine: Had I been happy enough to have caught you here, my dear Friend! I should not have wanted James's Powder, l'Exercise du Cheval, et beaucoup de dissipation; as all the french Doctors have prescrib'd, & I have had three of 'Em — wch with three German ones, & Two of my own Country, make the Number Eight — Eight Physicians, my good Friend, and still alive! & very likely to continue so — so set your honest heart at rest; & per-

haps those, of my other friends, who care about me, may not be wholly insensible at y^{s} Intelligence.

I am a little y^{e} worse for wear, & and was so alter'd a fortnight ago, that I was not known, till I spoke; but now, my Cheeks are swelling, my belly rounding, & I can pass for a tolerable looking French Man; but my Nerves, S^{r}: my nerves—They are agitated at times; & the Duke of Devonshire's death had very near crackt them — they kept his Death from me by the manag^{t} of the best of Women & Wives, till I was better able to struggle with such a Heart-breaking loss — He lov'd me to the greatest Confidence, & I deserv'd it by my gratitude, tho not by my Merits — I must not dwell upon this subject, it shakes me from head to foot — I can't forget him — and the blow was as dreadful to me in my weak condition as it was unexpected — I heard nothing of Hubert & Hogarth before your letter told me of their Deaths — I was much affected with your News, the loss of so many of my acquaintance in so short a time is a melancholly reflection: Churchill I hear, is at the point of death at Boulogn, This may be report only — he is certainly very ill — what a lust of publishing has possess'd him for some time past — the greatest Genius no more than the greatest Beauty, can withstand such continu'd prostitution — I am sorry, very sorry for him — such

Talents with prudence had commanded the Nation — I have seen some extracts I don't admire — What is Brown's book upon Poetry? pray let me have some literary intelligence — how could M^r^ Franklin * imagine that any difference between us would affect any of his dramatic productions? I hope my heart is free from any injustice, & malignity of that kind — M^r^ Lacy at present manages our Theatre — if he receives M^r^ F's Performance, I wish it Success — this paragraph you may read to him if you please — did you receive my Letter about our Comedy — I shall begin, the first moment I find my comic Ideas return to me to divert myself w^th^ Scribbling — say something to me upon that Subject — I have consider'd our 3 Acts, & with some little alterations they will do — I'll ensure them.

Had Lord Bath behav'd to you as he ought & not suffer'd himself at the last to be flatterd by a learned Lady & her flatterers, I should *have dropt a tear* too, but my Nerves bore the News of his death without agitation — Madame la Precieuse, I

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* Afterwards, *Doctor* Francklin: — he translated *Sophocles*, *Lucian*, &c.; was Author of several English plays, and various other works. He is mentioned in the *Rosciad:*

> "Others for Francklin voted, but 'twas known
> He sicken'd at all triumphs but his own."

hear since, has been disappointed, & has Acted her part for a pair of Earings only — I hope 'tis true from my soul — I rec^{d} a very agreeable Letter from Powel — I have not answer'd it yet, but I will — advise him to study hard, for without it no reputation however brilliant at y^{e} beginning can be supported — I have sincere regard for him & rejoice in his success — Your attention to my friend Townley's Brat gives me true pleasure, is the Farce receiv'd? * George does not mention it — my Love to him (Townley) — is y^{r} Terence yet publish'd? — You wish me in Southampton Street — & so do I wish myself there; but not for Acting or Managing, but to see you, my D^{r} Colman, & other Friends — y^{e} Doctors all have forbid me thinking of Business — I have at present lost all taste for y^{e} Stage — it was once my greatest Passion, & I labor'd for many years like a true Lover — but I am grown cold — should my desires return, I am the Town's humble Servant again — tho she is a great Coquette, & I want Youth, vigorous Youth, to bear up against her occasional Capriciousness — but more of this when I see you — Foote has been here, I did not see him; did his pieces succeed last Summer?

* *Townley*, head-master of Merchant Taylors' School, was the Author of "*High Life below Stairs*," and two other farces: — that in question must have been the "*Tutor*," produced in 1765, and acted only two nights.

News, news, news, my dear Friend, & in return, I will let you know every thing that passes here & send you my sincere Love & best affection into y^e^ bargain.

Y^rs^. Ever & Ever

D. GARRICK

Monsieur Colman
in Great Queen Street
Lincoln's Inn Fields
London

Jan^y^ the 23^d^ 1765.

My Dear Colman

I THINK your affair w^th^ the worthy Baron^t^ a sufficient excuse for y^r^ not answering my last letter sooner — I forgive you with all my Soul, & only wish that with all my Soul I could be of the least assistance to you — You may, & must command me upon all occasions — damn all such treacherous Villains — I did not lose a moment to Enquire after his Worthyness: He is spending away as if he had y^e^ Duke of Devonshire's Estate, & has made a more brilliant & fantastical, & in his case, profligate, figure than

any of his Countrymen — He was last Sunday at the Ambassador's — I went directly to our good friend Mons^{r}. de Beaumont, & ask'd him if it was not possible to do something in your affair here — He thinks you sh^{d} lose no time in sending over your Security and papers to him, if you can't conveniently come yourself — I don't know whether you would not have a better chance to manage him here than in England or Ireland — & if he has money why should not You try all you can to get it? — I know my Banker would not trust him — but he has money & spends it like a fool — dont lose a moment — the matter is of great Consequence — I would really let all other affairs give way to this — 2000 P^{ds} is no small object — do you think my plaguing him would be of service? — if it would — I'll haunt him Day & Night * — my return to England is fix'd for y^{e} beginning of April, but I have a week or ten days allow'd me for packing up & getting away — I shall certainly be in England (Accidents excepted) by y^{e} middle of that month. suppose you could be here in February (& y^{e} sooner y^{e} better) would it not be a better scheme? — *Terence* will not be the worse for a little delay, the Baronet grows worse & worse

* All the foregoing relates to certain pecuniary accommodations given by my father to a *dashing* Baronet of his time, (now no more,) whose name it would be indelicate to mention.

in fortune, Credit, & honour Every day — nil mihi rescribas &c was never better apply'd nor quoted —.

I hope you have receiv'd some comfort from M^r Hutchinson, You must not sleep over this matter; it has been too long neglected already, & yet I suppose, some managm^t with General P. will be necessary — have you told him of it? — do you think of opening it to Him? — perhaps it would be better to hear it from y^r self, than from y^e *next Oars* (as they call themselves) the *Darlingtons* — you cannot hide it from y^e world, & they will perhaps be very ready for many reasons, to tell it — think of it seriously — I shall send the Prospectus of Monet's book to Becket by a Gentleman who sets out for Eng^d tomorrow * — I shall beg of you to say something about it in y^e S^t James's — I will enclose a Note to you & perhaps save you y^e trouble — He will send an Advertisement to Becket to be put into y^e Papers for 3 or 4 times — the book will be most Elegant & entertaining upon all accounts — if my Brother George can find by y^r help of

* The *Sieur Monnet* endeavoured, in November, 1749, to establish the exhibition of *French Plays*, in the Hay Market; — many of the nobility patronised the attempt, but JOHN BULL would not suffer it; riots ensued in the theatre, and the *Sieur*, and his *Troop*, left the Country.

Goringe y^e^ Book-binder three vols. of *Nugent*'s Tour thro' Europe in twelves — (I have one Vol^e^ here, y^e^ others are in my Study) — I shall give them to M^rs^ Beaumont — & there are people coming from London Every day — perhaps you'll bring them y^r^ self — My health is better & better — a Kingdom for a horse — 'tis your only remedy — write to me soon, & let me know y^r^ determination I shall say nothing of y^e^ Drama, y^r^ affair Engroses me wholly — affect^y^ Yours

D. Garrick

— all hurry —

To
*George Colman Esq^r^*
in great Queen street
near Lincolns-Inn fields
London. —

Jan^y^ 27^th^ 1765.

Dear Colman,

I hope you have receiv'd my letter concerning y^r^ Chevalier E. — let me know your intentions & y^r^ motions — I think you have

no time to lose — Strike — & perhaps you'll find y^e^ Iron not quite cold — I have taken a Slice at the Law-Oratory here — I have heard *Gerbier*, the french Mansfield, twice — He has great merit, & pleaded with great warmth, & force — I was much pleas'd — it was a *Cause celebre*, & y^e^ particulars are too long to send you — I could be glad that something was put into the S^t^ James's Chronicle, or into Says paper for my friend *Monet* — You have seen his *Prospectus* at Becket's by this time — the 3 Vol^s^ are very Elegant, y^e^ Songs well chosen, & the ornaments very well fancy'd & executed with great Taste — the price is only 30 livers, french — about 8 Sh^gs^ a Vol^e^. his Expence for Engraving of y^e^ Musick, & cuts w^th^ the paper which is made on purpose for him, will amount to more than a thousand Louisd'ors.

Suppose there was an Extract of a Letter from Paris? — in w^ch^ many things may be mention'd & y^r^ friend among y^e^ rest, that it may take off all suspicion from me: I should be glad that you would add, diminish, correct, & blow a little pepper into y^e^ tail of y^e^ following Nonsense.

— Extract of a letter from Paris —

———— " the great subject of Conversation here at present is the affair of the Hermaphrodite who has married a Girl at Lyons — they have annull'd y^e^ marriage there, & in their Sen-

tence have condemn'd the Hermaphrodite to wear Woman's Apparel hereafter — from ye Circumstances of his Case (& very strange they are) the Sentence is thought unjust, & there is an appeal from it to ye Courts here, & the Curious wait with great impatience for the Cohsequences — the Philosophical Dictionary which has made so great a noise here, & thought to be Voltaire's, is absolutely disown'd by him, & for very good reasons, the parliament has taken it into consideration, & if the Author is known, He may have reason to repent both of his Wit & his Indecency — the Play house (the french one I mean) cannot stand against the comick Operas at the Italians — the last which is taken from our George Barnwell, & call'd l'Ecole de la Jeunesse, is much admir'd — They have chang'd the Murder of the Uncle into an intention of robbing his Scrutore, where the Young Man finds his Uncle's Will, in which he is left Heir to all his Uncle's Estate — this occasions a new Catastrophe, by repentance &c & it Ends happily & heavily — this brings me to mention the former Director of ye Comic Operas, our old Friend Monet, He is ye gayest man at Paris — He has got Enough by his Operas to live happily, he has honorably paid all his debts that his unfortunate expedition to London brought upon him, He is greatly belov'd by the Men of Wit & Pleasure who have assisted him in collecting materials for three Vols of the most chosen Songs in the french language — it will be a complete history of their Lyrick

Poetry — He has great taste himself & he began his Collection when he was y^e^ Manager of Operas — His Engravings for y^e^ Musick, his elegant designs exquisitely executed, with the happy choice of the poetry, will make a very great addition to y^e^ Musical Library — the songs are all new set by y^e^ best Masters here — pray recommend them as warmly to y^r^ Friends as I most sincerely & warmly to you —"

I write in confusion for y^e^ Ambassador's Private Secretary has promis'd to send this for me in his packet & the man waits for it — I think you must leave me out as I have, or begin y^e^ Paragraph about me; "our little Stage Heroe looks better than he did &c"*— if you think it right speak of me as you please, gravely, ludicrously, jokingly or how you will, so that I am not suspected to write it — pray touch this matter up for us & be-

* If *puffing* had not, in these times, gone beyond what might have formerly been supposed it's *ultima Thule*, here were a lesson from a Master of Arts! — Alas, Alas! dwell there such *little* souls in *great* men! — Oh, Garrick, Garrick! that any man, of true talent, (whether fully aware of his established fame or not,) should forget the dignity of genius, and descend to this!!!

lieve me at all times & in all humours — walking, trotting or Galloping

Ever & Ever

D. Garrick

Send the Enclos'd directly to George.

Paris Febʸ 16ᵗʰ

Dear Colman,

You see by yᵉ Enclos'd that you will have a letter by yᵉ next post — when yᵉ Barʳ sends it, I shall direct it only, & put it into yᵉ post — I have desir'd to see him, for it was much ado that we knew how to send yᵉ letter, but he keeps with yᵉ lady, & sees No body chez lui — I'll go to yᵉ Embassador's tomorrow in hopes of catching him, & I will call at Madˡˡᵉ Clair's for that purpose too; but I am sorry that you did not draw upon him in my favour (as yᵉ Trade calls it) & then I shᵈ have had a sort of right to torment him — he has some ready money at present, & I could wish that we had our 150 out of it — Monsʳ de Beaumont wants to know what Security you have, & he can tell you what is to be

done here — tho if you are safe in Ireland what more can be done about y^e^ great debt? · ·

My dear Colman you frighten'd with me y^e^ Extract of a Lett^r^ from Paris — I am very sorry that you mention'd y^e^ *woeful want of me as Manag^r^ & Act^r^* — they will suspect it came from me, & I have no right to say so much, as I have been taking my pleasures & left y^e^ Theatre for a time — it appears ungenerous & ungratefull in me: which hurt me much — I beg that you will do all you can to make them not think y^e^ paragraph mine, if I am suspected — I never in my life prais'd myself knowingly except a little matter in y^e^ *Fribbleriad* *, w^ch^ always pinch'd me — perhaps I am too sensible about this delicacy, & nobody thinks about me or y^e^ Extract — settle my mind about that matter in y^r^ next — the devil was in you to mention the *hoop at Sadler's Wells*, for I wrote that very thing to my Friend Arden at Lord Spencer's — I desir'd you to say something *against* me †, & you stuck y^r^ pen in y^r^ heart, & wrote as you felt — I wish from my Soul that you had

* A Poem by Garrick, against a Mr. Fitzpatrick, who was at the head of the riots whereby *half-price* was established in the London Theatres; — except on the nights when a new Pantomime was exhibited, during the first winter of it's performance.

† Not *exactly* so; — see the foregoing letter.

not — If Becket mentions *you* to any body, it is just as bad — * Mad[e] Riccoboni (a very good Novelist, & a generous Creature,) is very angry with Becket. I took his part — I fear he did not do right, she is much hurt at him — We had a fine laugh at Baron D'Albach's (where you din'd once) about the *Wicked Comp[y]* I keep; I am always with that Set. pray set my Mind at Ease, I hate to be thought malicious —

Has George said any thing to you about it? — pray tell me for I can't know Elsewhere, w[t] is become of *Hardham's Girl?* — & tell me what Poem is that against Murphy & others — there is likewise a Vol[e] of Poetry with cuts & very pretty head & tail pieces I saw in Suard's hands — pray let me know something about these matters.

Y[rs] ever

& cordially

D. G.

P.S. vive la Clandestine Marriage!

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* It appears, from this, that the elder Colman had work'd upon Garrick's hints for a *puff*, transmitted in the last letter, and had published his notable performance in the Newspaper, so as to displease or alarm the mighty English *Roscius*. I rejoice to find that my father was considered a *bungler* in such an agency.

March 8th 1765.

My dear Colman

I HAVE done my utmost for you, & more by half than I wd. have done for myself — He never would see me, tho once I thought I shd have had that honour — he promis'd to meet me, but instead of keeping his word he sent me the Enclos'd — I need not trouble you with the whole of our Correspondence the two last will suffice, as they are ye finishers — you have heard from him I suppose —

I think you are a little too hard upon the Author, my friend Sir, of ye Seige of Calais * — there is flummery to be sure, but there is good Stuff too, & he will write better, nay he has — for he read to me one call'd Gabriele de Vergi a famous Story, that to me is worth two of ye Seige of Calais — however the french World is mad after it, & if my friend's head does not turn with it, it may boast great good Qualities.

You did not answer all my Enquiries in my last, you are affraid of making me uneasy, but I am as sound as a — what shall I say?

* Monsr De Belloy.

— nervous man can be — Mr Pauchaud has not seen me but 3 times I believe, & the last time was at his own house, just after a return of my fever — but perhaps he spoke as he wish'd, & if so I am flatter'd, for he is a very sensible agreeable man — you made me laugh at The farthing Candles — what a true picture! — I am happy wth ye thoughts of seeing you upon ye road, I will give either George or You Notice of my coming if I see you at *Canterbury* it will suffice, & I can perhaps tell you ye day or night we shall be there — so you have nothing to do, but be ready booted and spur'd (as ye Knights of old were) & set off at a moment's warning — Terence for Ever my dear little great Friend — there's your mind and body at once!

I shall send you next Monday a little parcel — a great secret — tis a Fable I have written, ye *Sick Monkey*, to be publish'd at my return † — Severe upon myself — I have likewise got a print engrav'd by Gravelot, I shall send you the plate — I would have Becket be in ye Secret and print it but not publish it under his name for it may be suspected — I shall cut it, & you may cut

* Another little art of Garrick; — a poetical anonymous satire upon himself, *by* himself; to excite curiosity, previously to his re-appearance: — It failed of it's purpose, and fell *still-born* from the Press.

more, or return what I have *quered* — You'll find your Self there as a *Galloway* — I have given some of my friends, whom I love, a little fillip — for Heaven's sake take care to be Secret — when Becket gives it to be publish'd, he must swear the Printer to Secresy for fear of offending Me — I shall speak to Foley about y^r^ Stockings — the other thing will most certainly be seiz'd — If I could bring Notre Dame upon my back for you, you sh^d^ have it — *Marmontel* has given an Imitation of Churchill's Character of Me at y^e^ End of y^e^ Rosciad finely done!

Yours most

affect^y^ D GARRICK

pray give my Letter to M^r^. Fitzherbert — Becket has it. Hochereau the Bookseller here brings you this — pray be civil to him & give him a dish of Coffee.

Paris March 10^th^ 1765.

My dear Colman.

I CAN very readily believe what you tell me of my Brother Consul — He will never forgive my being the means of his making a figure in the World — but this between Ourselves

— I have other matters for you when I see you, & which he does not expect — but Mum — pray does Powell continue to visit you, & get a little Sense from you, or is he topsy turvey like y^e^ rest & thinks like Ric^d^ y^e^ 3^d^ that *he is himself alone?* I hope he is wiser — but I'll answer for Nothing or Nobody in a play-house — the Devil has put his hoof into it, & he was a Deceiver from y^e^ beginning of y^e^ world — tell me really what you think of him — I am told by several that he will bawl & roar — *Ross*, I hear, has got reputation in *Lear* — I dont doubt it — the Town is a facetious Gentleman — What do you mean, my good friend, by my being *oblig'd* to appear, if I manage? upon looking over y^r^ letter, I find your words are *Expected* to appear — I must intreat you to be very sincere with me — do the Town in general *really* wish to see me on y^e^ Stage? or are they (which I rather think y^e^ truth) as cool about it as their humble Servant? — I have no maw for it, at all *, & yet something must be done to restore our credit: that I may be able to play, & as well as Ever, I will not deny, but that I am able to do as I have done, wear & tear, I neither must or can, or will — the Physicians here, D^r^ Gem among the rest, advise me, to a man, against appearing again — I had a little

* " *Nolo episcopari!*"

nervous attack last week, & the Dr croakt more hoarse than usual against my thinking to do as formerly. tranquillity & retirem^{t} from business (he says) are the only means to make me Myself again. A Tragedy here call'd y^{e} *Seige of Calais* written by a Friend of y^{e} Clairon & also my intimate has made y^{e} People mad. * the Boxes from top to bottom are all taken for Months to come — they give it gratis next Wednesday to y^{e} People, when y^{e} Doors will be open'd at 12 o'Clock at Noon, & the Play will begin at 2. 'tis y^{e} present Epidemical distemper — the Author has rec^{d} many favours from y^{e} King — 3000 livers — a Gold Medal — Liberty to dedicate to him — & w^{t} not — the French will hardly bear to hear a Criticism upon it — the following distich is handed about in terrorem.

D'un Auteur Citoyen vouloir ternir l'honneur,
C'est pretendre a l'Esprit au depens de son Cœur.

however there are some objections made by y^{e} cooler few — there is much merit in y^{e} Play, & more luck in y^{e} Choice of the Subject — I rejoice at the success, for Mons^{r} de Belloy the Author

* The dates of this and the preceding letter are accurately copied from the originals; — it seems, therefore, from this, that Garrick had forgot his mention of the *Siege de Calais*, in the former letter.

of it is a most ingenious modest & deserving man — his Genius is an honour to his own Country & would be to any other — You may mention something of this in y^e S^t James's but not from Me — now to serious business we'll advance —

I cannot get a Meeting with y^e Chevalier — he is never at home & has not yet appointed a Meeting w^th me. I send you the last letter I had from him — I would have you write directly to him & before I set off, I will endeavour to get y^e draught accepted, for our Friend de Beaumont advises that — I will certainly have a categorical answer from him, w^ch may force him to acceptance & then I will leave the Note in good hands to get the money by force. I had a consultation with M^r Beaumont & another Lawyer, they both thought the getting the bill accep^d. the best way — y^r Indemnification must pass y^r common Pleas (you know how) before we could ask a permission here to execute it upon S^r H. a round about way, but might be done — the method in hand is y^e best, c^d we but get him to Accept. I have sent you a Copy of my lett^r (Copied by my Italian Serv^t) when I sent y^e Note (for I could not see him) & his answer — You must press the Acceptance, & say, that you shall make a bad figure with me, that I have laid out money for you; & in my next to him, I shall desire an Answer in a very plain manner; & hint that you have not us'd me well to send me a draught was doubtfull of acceptance

— if you like this Scheme, let me know directly — for I shall have but just time to do it, as it sh^{d} be done — I shall follow y^{r} directions. This Is all I can say at present, for y^{e} boy waits to take it to our Ambassador's — it goes by his bag —

Y^{rs} Ever & most
truly D. G

A Gentleman yesterday shew'd me a letter from England in which was the following lines to me have they been in y^{e} Papers?

To Mr. Garrick

Take Pity Garrick on our Erring Youth,
Restore their minds to Shakespeare & to truth;
Return, return, our hopes are all in Thee —
Save us — from Tweedledum & Tweedledee!

I have not got it right the third line is better in y^{e} Original but I have not time to recollect it —

Easter Sunday —

My Dear Colman.

I HAVE sent you y^e^ nonsense that I threatened you with in my last * — I am rather pleas'd with the notion, & shall continue so, till you undeceive me. I have copy'd it hastily, but you can make it out — if you approve y^e^ Scheme pray let it be printed ready for my Arrival, — I shall either send or bring a little Copper plate by Gravelot, representing y^e^ Fable with great taste & spirit — I would have it printed in Quarto, & well — & if you will correct the Sheets for me, I shall be happy — 'tis written in too great hurry to be correct, but you will lick y^e^ Cub, or knock it on y^e^ head, if it is Shapeless. — I think the Names of y^e^ Animals sh^d^ be in small Capitals, & in the dialogue part one of y^e^ Speakers should be in Italicks which I have mark'd thus - - - - - - -

there are some half lines from Shakespear pray mark them if you think proper, & if you can think of a good Motto, down with it — I once thought of *Medicus sum.*

* His poem of the *Sick Monkey.*

I have given a Stroke at Dr Hill, & ye College of Physicians, You may out with it — I believe yt personal Satire is best avoided — I cannot say exactly what day we shall set out, but I will either let you or George know — if George can get us a good *Cook* we shall be oblig'd to him, & a house Maid, but we could wish that they had some Character fix'd to their tail — I hate to change & the general run of 'em are such infernal B—— that my Constancy is always to give way or I should neither be clean, or able to Eat.

If you would be so obliging to write me a line by ye next post chez L'Aubergiste a la Table Royale a Calais, I shall have great pleasure to receive a letter from you after my Journey — You will do it I know because it will give me pleasure — speak your mind about my Fable freely — I have no Mother's pangs with any of my bastards.

I have this moment seen Mr Beauclerk from London — he speaks strangely of *Powell* — be sincere with me upon that head — What all my Children! ——

I fear he has taken a wrong turn — have you advis'd him? Do you see him? is he gratefull? is he modest? or is he conceited & — undone?

once more, my good friend, correct my fable keep ye Secret most sacredly — *Becket* is yr man, but not to be publish'd under his name. it may be printed ready & ye Print for ye frontispiece may be struck off in day or two.

Yrs. Ever my dear Coley
while D Garrick.

I shall let George know the moment I set out, which will certainly be either next Sunday, or some day ye week after.

burn this for fear of Its being lost & of course wetting the powder of our Squib —

a dreadful purging yesterday — better to day, & always in Spirit with ye hopes of seeing my little Galloway —

You would not answer that part of my last Letr which related to yr fears of ye Publick's not being satisfy'd with my Management without Acting — you did not explain that — no matter — I am prepar'd — be civil I beg you to Hochereau — I have receivd great honours from ye Princes du Sang — I shall return to you quite a Clody in the fop's fortune

Dec^{r} 22^{d} 1765.

My dear friend

I WISH I had partaken of y^{r} feast of letters this Morning at Strahan's — I must tell you that one of y^{e} Parties (D^{r} Lowth) read one of Terence's plays in y^{r} translation with Garnier (who is now at Hampton) & was highly entertain'd with it, & pronounc'd it a most excellent performance — I could not help sending you this piece of news, for the Dr's Judgment is of too much consequence not to *feel* it

Y^{rs} Ever & Ever

D. G ———

To

George Colman Esq^{r}

Xmas day

D^{r} Coley.

GOD forgive me — I wrote the nonsense on y^{e} other side, or rather compos'd it, while our Parson was preaching this morning — it is a kind of Rondeau which the french & our fools

that imitated y^{m} were once very fond of. I have read y^{e} three Acts of y^{e} Comedy *, & think they will do special well — but why didn't you finish y^{e} first Act as you would have it? & if you had hinted at L^{d} Ogleby's vanity & amorous disposition, by way of preparation to y^{e} 4th Act (as we talk'd it over) would it not have made y^{e} strong scene there more natural? — I shall be with you on Fryday, & shall dine at four, if you have nothing better to do, You'll take a minc'd pye with us, or call in after dinner — I think y^{e} *Grown Gentleman* † will do, if Mess^{rs} Hart & Dukes will not set their Scholars upon us —

What I have to say to you is said on the other side —

Y^{rs} Ever

& most affect^{y}

D: Garrick

I have schem'd my Epilogue it will be uncommon at least —

* The Clandestine Marriage.

† Allusive, probably, to an essay in a periodical series called "*The Gentleman*," written by my father; which he continued only to a few numbers.

Christmas day

To George Colman.

May Xmas give thee all her cheer,
And lead thee to a happy year!
Tho wicked Gout has come by stealth,
And threats Encroachments on my health;
Tho still my foes indulge their Spite,
And, what their malice prompts, will write;
Tho now to me the Stage is hatefull,
And He, who owes me most, ungratefull;
Yet think not, George, my hours are sad,
Oh no — my heart is more than glad;
That Moment all my Cares were gone,
When You & I again were One;
This gives to CHRISTMAS all her cheer,
And leads me to a HAPPY YEAR. *

* From these lines, and the following short letter, it may be supposed there had been some misunderstandings between the parties, which were soon adjusted.

My dear Colman.

Becket has been w.th me, & tells me of y.r friendly intentions towards me — I should have been beforehand with You had I not been ill w.th y.e beef-steaks & arrack punch last Saturday *, & oblig'd to leave y.e Play house.

He that parts us, shall bring a brand from Heav'n
And fire us hence

Ever Yours
Old & New friend
D: Garrick.

To
George Colman Esq.r

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* Most probably, (from the fare and the day,) at the Beef-Steak Club. — This letter, possibly, might have preceded that which is printed immediately before it.

April 12th 66

My dear Coley

I must say a word to you by our friend Keate — he is a very agreeable man, & has comforted me much in this strange mixture of mortals at Bath — No man starts a laugh better, or makes a better chase — but alass! my dear friend, my hunting is over — I was last week feather'd Mercury, & now I have lead at my heels: I have a very serious fit of ye Gout, & how long it will last, & when I shall see you, ev'n my good Dr Ralpho * can't tell me — I am in general cent pr cent better for my present purgatory — Qualms — pukings, purgings, & Yellowness have left me, & I have no complaint but my gouty leg, (of the Street-post order) that occasions me to break a Commandment a little oftner than I us'd to do,

I was preparing to Exhibit for a few nights at Drury Lane but I believe I must decline it, & I trust his M——y will excuse

* Ralph Schomberg — a Physician then practising, at Bath.

me — pray consider *Quin's Epitaph* a little * — dont hurry y^r^ self, I have time enough — I shall not send it to the Statuary, till I have been some time in London — Y^r^ Criticism about y^e^ Epilogue I believe is just — I was afraid of disconcerting my Water-drinking, and hurried it a little too much — there is something however that will do — w^th^ ' t'other lick — how goes our bastard on? — We have Escap'd well — *Hawkesworth* has been kind — it pleas'd me much — Who wrote y^e^ Answer to *Kenrick's review? Johnson* sent it to me thro' *Steevens* last week — but Mum — it is not quite y^e^ thing: by J's fondness for it, he must have felt K——. what things we are! & how little are we known — I will always except You & Me — for I think our hearts are well known to Each other — if Either of us had had the least ingredient of some of y^e^ mortal Compositions that shall be nameless — we might have lost the greatest blessing of our lives — at least I speak for One. I am oblig'd to write fast & dont know if I am well understood — but I can't correct — I am sure that *your* Plautus must please † — I wish you had rid y^r^

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* *Quin's* epitaph, by Garrick, is engraved upon his monument, in the Abbey Church, at Bath.

† The elder Colman, as it has been previously observed, contributed the translation of *one* play to THORNTON'S PLAUTUS.

hands of it — for * * * * — *cætera desid*r. — I saw y^r friend M Selwyn here & spoke to him — I have seen *Clutterbuck* & all goes well: we shall come to Town together, & then y^e whole may be settled — thank you for attending George to Hampton — what said the french Hero? — did he seem to be satisfy'd with me? — he did very wrong to take such a journey contrary to my directions — voila l'etourderie françoise — Pray when you see *Davies* the Bookseller, assure him that I bear him not the least malice (which he is told I do) for having mention'd the *Vulgarisms* in the Clandestine Marriage — and that I may convince him that all is well between us — let him know that I was well assur'd, that he wrote his Criticism before he had seen y^e Play. *Quod er*t *dem*m. — I forgot to tell George that I would have him consult with M^r *Beighton* about the Seeds that came from *Obrien* — He (Beighton) will know better what to do with them than my Gardiner — desire George to write to him, & send the Seeds by the first opportunity — *Baker* the Bookseller will tell him how to send the Seeds the Easiest & readiest way. Keate is now w^th me, & his Postchaise at the door, so I can only say — what I have said a thousand times, & what I will say to y^e last moment of my Life that

I am my dear Colman's
Ever affectionate friend
D Garrick

Hampton
Fryday

Dear Colman

Mrs Garrick will wait upon you with great pleasure on *thursday* next — pray let Schomberg be of ye Party, we have not seen him a long while & we love him —

The *Gentleman* * is excellent. more when I see you

Ever & affectly
Yrs
D Garrick

I hope yr Spleen † will continue — We are jaunting it for a few days

George Colman Esqr

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* The periodical Paper already mentioned.

† A Farce so called, written by the elder Colman.

June 30th 1766.

Dear Colman,

I rejoice much at your safe arrival at Paris.— You set out in Storm & tempest & we were afraid that the Sea would have been rather too frisky for yr Stomachs. — but the worst is past, & I hope Madam & You are well contented with Leviez & his accommodations. to begin with what you are most interested about, I must tell, that yr sweet boy * is at this instant as happy & as well as Ever I knew him — I have made him two visits since yr departure, which he has taken most kindly — the last time his Eyes sparkled when he saw Me — He is greatly desirous to know why I call him *Georgy go ging* — & has very seriously interrogated his Duenna about it — We have work'd very hard in the Garden togeather, & have play'd at Nine-pins, till I was oblig'd to declare off — He is well taken care of indeed — the old

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* I am aware of the laugh I shall excite, by publishing this description of myself, as "a *sweet boy*;" — and, were it not for the vanity of quoting my own scribbling, I might say, that my acquaintance would exclaim, like Job Thornberry, in John Bull, — "Are You the pretty Boy? — bless my soul, *how you are altered!*"

Lady & the maiden Pierce, are most trusty Guardians, & be assur'd that you may set y^r^ tender hearts at rest about him — I go to Essex tomorrow, & at my return, We are to have a day at Hampton, & he is to make love to my niece Kitty, & a plumb-pudding — He seems very fond of y^e^ Party, & we will endeavour to make him forget his loving parents — once more my dear friend, Let not a single thought about y^r^ Boy disquiet You — He could not be better if you were with him — so no more of that.

Thompson din'd with me at Hampton — he spoke very highly and affect^y^ of You — he has no design upon us the next Season, but talks of trying his hand again — he intends writing to you, I believe him to be a very good natur'd, well-meaning man — Steevens has inquir'd after me to give me some papers from You — what they are I can't tell, but we have miss'd one another, & I am still in y^e^ Dark; & you don't mention w^t^ they are in y^r^ letter —

I have had a letter from Bickerstaff, he is at Paris, & is going to give some Account of our Theatre in the *Journal Encyclopiq:* You will see it I suppose —

Saunderson tells me that they have lay'd y^e^ timbers for y^e^ first floor of y^r^ house*, it rises most magnificently to the Ferry-Passengers; you'll be surpriz'd to find y^r^.self Master of a Chateau at your return — don't lose the Autumn for planting trees to screen you from the timber Yard — my love to Madam & remember me to Leviez — You must not see a single french friend of mine but you must tell him, how much I am his humble Servant — God bless you & believe me

most affectionately y^rs^

D Garrick

George desires his best to you

A Monsieur
Monsieur Colman
chez Mons^r^ Leviez
Marchand des Estampes
rue des Arcs
Fauxbourgs St Germains
A Paris

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* At Richmond, in Surrey.

July 15th
Hampton

My dear Coley

I HAVE rec^{d} y^{r} Letter by Miss Burney, & was surpriz'd to find that my first had not reach'd you —

I shall write to you as often as I think I can give you y^{e} least pleasure — I was taken ill with a giddiness yesterday upon Hampton Common, in going to see y^{r} sweet Boy, I was oblig'd to return home, & send Cautherly, to know how he was, having not seen him for a fortnight, (my Stay at Mistley) — He was quite well, & wanted to see me — We are to have a day soon, if good weather, at Hampton, which he mentions often, & has set his little heart upon it — be assur'd that He shall want for Nothing in y^{r} absence, & that I will even administer to his pleasures — *We will sing old rôse & burn y^{e} bellows* at Hampton†, * * * * * I would have you follow the Chevalier up briskly — he will be afraid of being expos'd — now or never —

† Much is omitted here, relative to *myself*; which, had it been inserted, would have shewn Garrick's good-natured attention to a child, and his skill, as a master of the passions, in tickling the feelings of a father.

The Ministry all to pieces — Pitt they say & a New Arrangement — Beard & Co. are going (*positively*) to sell their Patent &c for 60000 — 'tis true — but Mum — we have not yet discover'd y^e^ Purchasers — When I know you shall know — there will be y^e^ Devil to do* — if you w^d^ alter the *Country Wife*, now is y^r^ time — you might easily — & I have a girl for it will please you much — if You won't I will — We must have it soon in y^e^ Season — try y^r^ hand — you shall have my hints for sending for — Miss Wright † not with us — that's not well — but I am in Spirits & Ever thine my dear Coley upon the Gallop —

most truly & Eternally
thine

D Garrick

A Monsieur
Monsieur Colman
chez Monsr Leviez
Marchand des Estampes
rue des Arcs
Fauxbourg St Germain.

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* The elder Colman was, himself, one of the purchasers.

† Afterwards Mrs. Michael Arne.

Hampton July 31

My dear Coley.

I WISH to God that we had you again here — your letter has made me miserable: let me beg you, for my sake, not to suffer y^r Spirits to sink in y^e manner they have done in y^r last letter. I am sure the illness you have, proceeds from Nothing but y^e Change of Air, & the Seine-Water. however You have D^r. Gem, & I am satisfy'd — pray present my Love & best Services to him, and if he does not send you back to us, as you went, I shall forget all the good he did to me, & abuse him most cordially. *

* * * * * * *

I can almost prophesy the subject of y^e Lett^r you rec^d, from y^e *Person of fashion.* Covent Garden Patent &c have been upon Sale — One Whitworth & Spilsbury M^rs Pritchard's Son in Law are some of y^e parties concern'd in y^e purchase: I guess that y^r Lett^r was from y^e *first*, offering you a Share &c. — they have spoke to *Foote* & *others*, but the treaty is at a Stop I believe for want of Cash, but I am not certain — *Foote* goes on *now* well, & very uneasy that *Barry* & *Dancer* are coming to join him at y^e *Opera house* — he is to give them half y^e Profits; y^e Expences will be great, & he finds that all his friends think him in y^e wrong to have them — *You'll* think so too, & when *Barry* comes, he'll find *Foote* very cold — they say he abuses him already — I have

made a beginning upon y^e^ *Country Wife* — I like my Scheme, but it is a great change in y^e^ Piece — I wish you were here that I might tell it to you — *M^r^ Pitt* now *Lord Chatham*, & *Privy Seal*, have set us all in an uproar! I don't understand his Policy, if I am right he is wrong — but I am a fool & have not lost all my virtue. — pray what are become of *Yates* & his *wife?* y^e^ Story of them rejoic'd me — have you talk'd with them? what are their Schemes? — if you are well enough to see the Dancer *Slingsby*, hint to him from y^r^.self that he did wrong to send his Brother to make an Engagem^t^ w^th^ us & then fly off — we have a good Case in Equity — he is engag'd to y^e^ Opera-house — the Managers of y^e^ Opera dislike y^e^ trick he has play'd us — when you see *Monet* present my Love to him, & tell him I rec'd his last, & hope that he will Engage the new Man-Dancer for us — if he is good & is Comic —

Yrs Ever & most affect^y^

D. Garrick *

come away, come away, &c.

A Monsieur
Monsieur Colman
chez Monsieur Leviez
Marchand des Estampes
rue des Arcs
Fauxbourgs S^t^ Germains
Paris

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* The theatrical persons, and all their proceedings alluded to in this letter, require no illustration.

Sunday

My dear Coley.

Hampton has had a prodigious Effect upon me: my Cough & hoarseness are 50 p^r^ cent better for y^e^ Change of air — instead of coughing all night, I have been disturb'd but twice & thrice & that not rudely, & have pass'd y^e^ rest of y^e^ Night very pleasantly — My Wife has persuaded me to stay here till Wed^y^ when I hope to wait upon the *English Merchant* * with all my wits & Spirits about Me — in y^e^ mean time, I could wish, if not disagreeable to you, that you would look in upon them on *Wednesday*, & I will make my appearance on *Thursday* Morning: I hope to see you *Wed^y^ Evening:* my Wife says if you will dine with us on *Wed^y^* at *four* she will present us with a fine haunch of Venison — say you will in a Note by y^e^ Bearer to Morrow —

You must write to me, & say if I am to furnish an Epilogue for the Merchant — I certainly will do my best if you are not provided —.

* The Comedy founded on *L'Ecossaise*, by Colman, the elder.

If you intend to stand by y^e^ London Journal, I will prepare some comicality for it; I have a hundred thoughts about it, & will be always doing something.

I intend *Crambo* to be the laughing Rhyming reviewer of Every thing — M^rs^ Pritchard has sent a most kind message to me, & will do any thing I desire her — She shall set the Part a going, & when we are safe landed (tho if M^rs^ Bennet play'd it there is not y^e^ least danger) M^rs^ Hopkins may Relieve her, in case of Indisposition &c. &c. Poor Becket is very angry with Baldwin for abusing what we act, & he prints — pray keep up y^e^ Ball, we shall have some sport with him.

D. Garrick.

Adelphi Dec^{r} 20th 1774

My dear Sir.

A THOUSAND thanks, merry Xmasses & happy New Years to you for y^{r} delightful letter: M^{rs} Garrick sends the same with great warmth for y^{r} Latin & English in which she is concern'd — it was impossible for you to satisfy Cumberland, had y^{e} rack forc'd from you as much falshood, as he has vanity — I am very glad you have prepar'd him for me; had you been as mischievous as you were sincere with him, You might have sent him so high Season'd, & stuff'd so full wth conceit, that I should have had much ado to lower him; he has behav'd so disagreeably with me, that I must have a pluck at his feathers, whether they belong to Terence, Shadwell, or are of his own growth: The *Two Misers* which are to be produc'd by y^{r} late Brethren,* & written by O'Hara, are from y^{e} french of Sedaine, *les deux Avares*, a very old improbable piece, but y^{e} french Musick was thought good — M^{r} Tighe has endeavor'd to make me loose my hold of the Duke

* My father had, now, sold his share in Covent Garden Theatre.

of Braganza * — the Barrys are mad about it, & I am very stubborn not to say cross: if I can get a frank before I close this, you shall see how he has press'd me within these two days: *Harlequin's Jacket* will make Its appearance *next Monday;* I announc'd it a few days ago in our paragraph, but it will appear in the Bills — a *Medley Pantomime* call'd the *New Year's Gift* or *Harlequin's Jacket.* we shall take half price, tho y^e^ Scenes are all new — I shall do all I can to produce y^e^ *Silent Woman* † this Season; but, it will work us much, if we keep Jephson's tragedy; I shall rely upon y^r^ Attachment to us to excuse our deferring it, if we find an absolute necessity for it — the Comedy will take thrice y^e^ trouble & care of a modern one to shew it, as it shall be shewn, & *ought* to be coming from *you* to *me:* pray tell me truly w^t^ you think of *Henderson?* *George* is an Infidel — Entre nous has our friend F. had some words w^th^ a certain Major? —

pray tell George I have received his letter, & once for all I beg of him, not to think of leaving Bath, till he feels & finds himself

* *Braganza*, a Tragedy, by Jephson; produced at Drury Lane in 1775; — very successful.

† Ben Jonson's Comedy, altered by the elder Colman.

wholly sound again — if he does, I'll never forgive him — a most disagreeable affair has happen'd — Mossop * on his death-bed sends me his play, begging that I would Ease his Mind in his last moments, by taking his play, & doing all in my power with it for y^e^ Service of his Creditors — he is dead, & I have y^e^ Comedy — I have not yet read a speech — a Friend has, & says it is like the *Patron*, w^th^ out y^e^ humour — what a scrape — ! more when I see you when will it be? — pray one letter more, if you follow it y^e^ next day.

Ever & most affect^y^ Yours

D Garrick.

what a scrawl! Love to Foote

I was at Hampton or you should have had an Answer by y^e^ return of y^e^ post: pray tell George as I have written you, I shall not write to him this week — M^rs^ G^k^ wishes that you w^d^ get her a good Footman — tell my Broth^r^ so.

To
*George Colman Esq^r^*
at
Bath.

* The Actor.

Drury Lane Play house

THE Author of Bon * Ton presents his best Compts. & thanks to Mr Colman for his excellent Prologue, & would wish to add to ye obligation by desiring him to look over the Farce & draw his pencil thro' the parts his judgment would omit in the next representation —

Mr Garrick not being present at ye representation, he likewise should be very happy if Mr Colman, would shew his regard to him, & take ye trouble which is wanting to make Bon Ton palatable.

Mr G. will do more or any thing at any time to shew his Attachment to his Old Friend —

* Garrick was the concealed Author of the Farce of *Bon Ton.* He writes this *complimentary* note as a *ruse*, no doubt; that his Prompter, or other retainers, by whom it might be seen, should be kept in the dark.

Bath April 10th 1775.

Dear Colman

When I see you, I will talk over in friendly conference the Subject of y^r^ last Letter — I am at present very oddly situated — but as I shall always wish to second your desires whenever I can, without injury to myself, w^ch^ I am sure you always imply at the time you let me know them, I must open my heart to you, & beg that it may be shut up to Every body else — Smith cannot, with the people the Managers have engag'd, be employ'd at Covent Garden — He has offer'd himself to me by my Brother in a fit of honour, or Compunction — I still keep aloof, & have written a very spirited & refusing letter to him — this my policy and my Spirit requir'd — but I will not hide a thought from You — I really think we can't do without him, & if so (for Henderson is yet disengag'd) how can I make it worth B—y's while to change his Situation? — however let matters rest a little, the theatrical face of things may be greatly alter'd, before we meet, for I give you up, & y^e^ Pleasure of seeing you here — I must intreat your

Secresy in this affair, & you shall know all my Politicks & Engagements when I see you

Ever & affect^y
Y^rs
D GARRICK.

George Colman Esq^r

Bath April the 20th
175

My dear Colman

I HAVE waited till this moment to ascertain my time of leaving this place, but till my Brother George quits me the beginning of next week I shall not be able to fix y^e day -

You may depend upon my staying at least ten days after y^e day you receive this, but if you cannot be here before y^e End of next Week, unless y^r health requires y^r Coming, I would not wish to see you here for a few days, for that will be tantalizing me with a vengeance, & the result will be, that I shall only have a taste of you here, & lose my meal of you in Town — I

must be in London y^e 18^th of May, for y^e fund, & I am not certain whether I shall not shew myself the 9^th, for that is one of our days, & I am afraid to take the chance of the Plays we can act without me — but of this I am not yet determin'd — Should you not have set out before George arrives in Town, which will be on thursday next, he will tell you all, If I see you here before then, I will by Jasus tell you all myself; — pray let Becket shew you the last card I received from Smith, which I shall not answer — I have some small suspicions about that business which Becket will explain — the *inflexible Captain* * has been play'd here w^th success, & I touch'd up M^rs Didier w^th an Epilogue which had a good reception — Henderson play'd Regulus — & you would have wish'd him bung'd up with his nails before y^e End of y^e 3^d act —

Palmer's Election for common councilman comes on tomorrow — he has brought down L^d. C — to insure him Success, & he will have it — what a stirring indefatigable fellow it is!

Ever & most affect^y

yours

D. Garrick

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* A tragedy, by Miss Hannah More; acted, *one night*, at Bath.

I will tell you a Secret Brother Martin shall make your hair stand an End! — I believe I may engage the blood of the Lindleys! * — don't let one syllable of this transpire till y^e^ deed is done! ——

To
*George Colman Esq^r^*

Bath Saturday Night

My dear Colman.

Your very friendly agreeable letter came to my hand in a very lucky moment: I had been numb'd, as a Maccaroni I should have said bor'd, to death by old D^r^ Barry for an hour & half, so that had not You electrify'd me, I had perish'd — Your illness alarm'd me, & your Scheme with Capt. Phipps to the North Pole freezes about my heart —

I despair of seeing you here, so that I must beat y^e^ parade with the folks here whose conversation lies as heavy upon my mind as

* See Mr. Linley's sentiments on the subject of his daughter's theatrical engagements, among previous letters in this collection.

the hot cakes & devilments at breakfast upon my Stomach — I have seen y^e^ great Henderson, who has Something, & is Nothing — he might be made to figure among the puppets of these times — his Don John is a Comic Cato, & his Hamlet a mixture of Tragedy Comedy pastoral farce & nonsense — however, tho' my Wife is outrageous, I am in y^e^ Secret, & see sparks of fire which might be blown to warm even a London Audience at Xmas — he is a dramatic Phœnomenon, & his Friends, but more particularly Cumberland has ruin'd him — he has a manner of paving, when he w^d^ be Emphatical that is ridiculous, & must be chang'd, or he would not be suffer'd at y^e^ Bedford Coffeehouse —

Palmer goes on well, & will be elected into y^e^ Corporation, I am kissing old Women, & giving young ones y^e^ Liberty of Drury Lane Theatre by way of Bribery & Corruption — It is the fashion, you know, for Punch to do this Business at Elections, & Palmer can't have a better — joking apart I am really become a Punch — I have gain'd two inches in the Waist, & the Girls at Night call me Fatty! I wish you had seen S^r^ J.'s play — y^r^ opinion would have confirm'd me — I hate this traffick w^th^ friends.

I long to be at Gray's Memoirs — You have made me smack my lips — M^r^ Mason is certainly peevish, but I think there is poetry about him — when shall I devour the true Art of Poetry? I

dreamt of it some Nights ago — it is a special business for your Genius & worthy of You. how like you Master Twiss? — Y^r^ Intelligence about the Dedication is erroneous —

M^rs^ Garrick sends her Love to you, but says with me, that you are a false Loon, & will not see Bath this Spring.

Ever Yours

most affec^ty^

D Garrick

all in a hurry going to y^e^ Play —

George Colman Esqr

Hampton Aug^t^ 29.

1775.

My dear Colman

I expect to see you as brown, & as hearty as a devonshire plough boy, who faces y^e^ Sun without shelter, & knows not y^e^ Luxury of small beer & porter — will nothing satisfy your ambition but Robinson Crusoe? I think *little Friday* would do

very well for you to begin with, particularly as you are in company with those mighty adventurous Knights Banks, & Phipps! * — if You are still happy in risking your Neck with them, I beg my best Compliments to. them — what say you if I should once more emerge from Stone & Gravel & many other human infirmities & Curses, & spring out again an active being, & Exercise w^th^ y^e^ best of you! — Since you left me, I have been upon y^e^ rack, & almost despair'd of fighting a battle or committing a murder again — but a fortnight ago my good Genius led me to y^e^ Duke of Newcastle's where I met with an old Naples friend, & he recommended a remedy which has work'd Wonders — It has taken away half the Evil of my life, & at this moment * * * * * * * but Lord help us, we little men make nothing of swelling ourselves to a *Hercules* or a *Robinson Crusoe!* — to be serious — You will be pleas'd to see me, as I am — My spirits are return'd, & redeant Saturnia regna —

* My father was, at this time, on a visit to Captain Phipps, (the late Constantine, Lord Mulgrave,) in Yorkshire; and Sir Joseph Banks was of the party. — I am unable to explain the allusion to Robinson Crusoe.

By the bye I had some thoughts to make a farce upon the follies & fashions of y^e^ times & y^r^ friend *Omiah* * was to be my Arlequin Sauvage — a fine Character to give our fine folks a genteel dressing — I must lick my fingers with you at y^e^ *Otaheite fowl & Potatoes* — but don't you spoil y^e^ Dish, & substitute a fowl for a young puppy? — pray my Love to George † — they who don't like him, are not fit company for You or me, so no thanks to 'Em for their good reception — notwithstanding *Foster*'s Oath, Foote has thrown the Duchess upon her back, and there has left her, as you or I would do — She is Sick & has given up the Cause, & has made herself very ridiculous, & hurt herself much in the struggle — Foote's letter is one of his best things, in his best manner. ‡

* Omaï, the Otaheitan, — who was brought to this Country by Sir Joseph Banks, in his voyage round the World with Captain Cook, and was then one of the party above mentioned.

† Myself, again — then a boy — and on the visit, with my father, in Yorkshire.

‡ This alludes to *Foote*'s well-known quarrel with the *D—ch—ss of K—ngst—n.*

— pray come away, & see my Sword drawn — y^e^ Theatre is noble! — Entre nous — Pope has squeak'd & sent her penitentials, but I cannot receive 'Em —

Ever & most affec^ty^

Y^rs^

D Garrick

My Wife sends her best Love to George. I have scribbled away — such Stuff! but we rise! We! — *We Apples!* — ha ha ha —

Dec^r^ 12

My dear Colman

Pray read over y^e^ inclos'd if you have an hour's leisure, you shall know It's history — I must write to night about it, which letter you shall see, if I can see you in the Evening — Shall I call upon you at any time? I cannot get rid of an Engagement I have till about Nine — where may you be till about 8 — ? I want to talk with you about y^e^ Silent Woman. poor Weston, Moody tells me will, he thinks, never play again — he wants to go to Bath — therefore as we cannot stay his recovery, to whom shall

I give La Fool? * — We must go to work upon it directly — don't read these 4 Acts (tho but short) if it is in the least inconvenient.

Yours Ever
& Ever
D Garrick.

— you were not at Covent Garden, I like the Duenna † much with some few objections — It will do their business —

Hampton
April 12.

Dear Colman

On Tuesday next in all probability will finish our six nights of y^e^ Spleen ‡: & if you chuse it, we will (as I propos'd to you)

* A character in the *Silent Woman.*

† Sheridan's Opera.

‡ A Farce, by the elder Colman, produced in 1776.

let you have a Sixth of the whole subtracting y^e^ Expences — or if you had rather run the Chance of a Night, I will tell you all y^e^ nights we have, & you shall take your choice of them & of what play you please with M^rs^ Yates & which may Either appear as your night or as a Manager's — We have bought two Nights, *Parsons* & *Aikin's* the one Yesternight, and y^e^ other on tuesday next — We shall meet on Sunday Evening & whatever you will like best, will be best to

my Dear Colman

Ever & truly y^rs^

D. GARRICK.

George Colman Esq^r^.

Adelphi 25

WE wanted you much at the Election to day — Foote in great Spirits but bitter against the L^d^ Ch—m— he will bully 'Em into a License* — y^e^ D——ss has had him

* A license for acting Foote's Play of the *Trip to Calais* — which he could not obtain. It was an attack upon the D—ch—ss of K—ng—n, and, after being much altered, was produced under the title of the *Capuchin*.

in her closet, & offer'd to bribe him — but Cato himself tho he had one more leg than our friend, was not more stoically virtuous than he has been — you shall know all when I see you — We will most certainly attend you on *Tuesday next* — it is scarce possible for me to refuse dining with you any where but w^th^ M^r^. Baldwin — I will not Ever again attend those meetings, tho I have been very happy among my friends there —

I have been insulted greatly — first to have a Paper, in which I have a property, abuse me for puffing myself, & then I am suppos'd the Author of a paragraph, or letter in y^e^ Morn^g^ Chronicle, which the Printer himself almost avows, & which by my honor, I never heard of till you mention'd it to me:

I have done my Share to y^e^ paper, nay I have told that worthy Gentleman M^r^ Baldwin, that I would look out things whenever he was in want of nonsense — but I give y^e^ matter up now, & as he may be assur'd I will trouble myself no more about it, he may abuse me as fast as he pleases — I don't expect mercy from such Gentry for past Services. This you may say or read as you please —

I long for y^e^ *Saucy Gentleman* Becket will let me have it, as soon as he can.

Yours in great haste — you Serv^t^ waiting at y^e^ door.

Ever & most affect^y^.

Yours

D. Garrick

damn y^e^ pen.

From George Colman, the Elder.

My dear Garrick,

From your never mentioning *The Silent Woman*, I am really in doubt whether it has slipt your memory, or whether I am to conclude from your silence that you do not think the Piece deserves that indulgence from the Theatre usually extended to other altered Plays. — If the first is the case, I must beg you to excuse my now reminding you of it; if the latter, I have only to regret having given you the trouble, & myself the mortification of getting it up at your Theatre — and to remain, Dear Garrick,

y^rs^ most entirely

& most heartily

G. Colman

Soho Square
May 25. 1776.

Adelphi May 27. 1776.

My dear Sir,

Your letter, which has astonish'd me, came to my hands at the most unlucky time, as I have so much already upon my Mind — Was I in a dream, when I imagin'd that you *gave* us the alteration of the Silent Woman ?.— did you not *say* so, & *write* so ? — I think no trouble too much for a performance with a Friend's name to it, nor do I ever spare any expence to set it off:

The Silent Woman with all our Care did not succeed, & was left off under charges at the 4th Night, tho we added the Jubilee to it — The impossibility of giving it a fashion was felt by You, as well as myself.

If you intended to be consider'd as the *Alterer*, & not as the *Donor*, why would you delay to this time to let me know your expectations ? — You must be sensible, that I would not that *You*, of all persons, should have a bad bargain :

Pray let me know what I must do, for I cannot have such a Burden upon my mind at this very distressing time, when my

theatrical Life is so near It's End — It is the trouble of an Evil Conscience upon my death bed —

I am
my dear Sir
Yours most truly
D. Garrick.

If I am confus'd or unintelligible impute it to Richard — what an operation! —

From George Colman, the Elder.

My dear Garrick

I am very sorry my Letter came so *mal-a-propos*, & still more sorry that you should be disturbed for a single moment with such a trifle.

God knows I had no thoughts of profit, or a bargain, about the Silent Woman — yet I really did not pretend to make a gift of

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* It is lamentable to see such misunderstandings between two old and dear friends, about *base Mammon*.

it — for to say the truth, at the time I offered it to your theatre, I did not think we were quite on good terms enough to warrant my taking the liberty of making you a present — but I am much pleased & flattered to find that you were of a different opinion.

As to the popularity of the Piece, you can witness for me that it was what I never expected from it; — Like Swift's M^rs^ Harris, *All I stood upon was the credit of the house*: and I must confess myself so zealous for the old school, that I think Epicœne, for the honour of the managers also, ought to keep the stage. * All I endeavoured was to remove the objections that deprived it of a place there, held by pieces every way inferior; — and this labour, trifling as it was, I thought might deserve the same consideration allowed to other altered pieces.

* With all his endeavours, he failed in his purpose. Ben Jonson was, in the first place, a pedant, — and, in the second, gave the *humours* of *his day*. Few of such a Dramatist's writings can long *keep the stage*. Whenever Ben has made the passions of universal man his ground-work, he has succeeded best for lasting fame. Nature will alwavs interest and delight; and, therefore, Shakspeare will last as long as Nature herself.

I would not have wrote to you, but from my utter aversion to the smallest idea of reserve with a friend, — and when friends, true friends, once understand each other, there never can subsist any difference.

I am, dear Garrick,
most affectionately your's,
G. COLMAN

Soho Square.
May 28. 1776.

Oct'. 3rd.
76

Dear Colman

I AM setting off this moment for Hampton — I wish you most sincerely success & Every pleasure from your new Engagement * — I am truly partial to the *Old* Spot, from an Old habitual liking, but likewise from a principle of honesty that makes me attach'd to people, who have bought my property, & behave so well to me — Were you Manager at the other house, I should have been much distress'd for then *honour would say, do this*, & *tender Love*

* With *Foote*, in respect to the Haymarket Theatre.

say — NAY — I am Sorry the Place is lett to a Puppet-Show — * & I rejoice you have not (as I hope) made a bad bargain — but more when I see you — I could wish that there were a proper Gentleman-like Agreement about matters between you all †— More when I see you in y^e^ mean time God bless you my dear Friend

Y^rs^ Ever &^c^

D: GARRICK

I was very near losing 20 p^ds^ as my vanity conceiv'd I sh^d^ have heard of y^r^ Engagem^t^ before it had been in y^e^ papers ——

No friendly Miff I assure you.

G. Colman Esq^r^.

* The Fantoccini.

† Relative to the Winter Houses performing late, and cutting up the summer-season: — the next letter alludes to this.

Monday 4th
Nr. 1776

My dear Colman

I HAVE this nasty Gout still nibbling at me & would fain damp my Spirits — You believe, I trust, that I am ye last man would advise you to bear Oppression, as I think you are the last man to take such advice — tho I am catechis'd on all sides about your purchase, I will not own it, nor shall I, till I have *Your* leave — Yet in ye name of good Management how can it be long a Secret? for you must, like a wise General, prepare for ye Campaign —

Our facetious friend *, I hear, damns himself, that there is no such thing, & Jewel * only owns to a treaty, but no bargain yet struck — I suppose HE wd not proclaim his Abdication, till the tryal is over † — that will soon be & then you will come forth —

* Foote, and his Treasurer

† Foote's trial; — he was acquitted. The charges against him are notorious.

If you Wits & Managers (I don't include Mess^{r} Leake & Fisher in this number) are not too much of the Game-Cock breed, you may settle y^{r} matters without sparring — they seem to be much hurt at y^{e} 100 Nights for y^{e} Fantocini — all the three houses cry out Murder, & intend, as I hear, to petition against it — this I suppose cannot Effect *You* —

however busy & anxious I might be for the *New* * brooms, I am always constant to my *old* Friends, & shall be very sincere, however fallible in my advice to You

Y^{rs} Ever
& most truly
D: Garrick

I saw you had secur'd *One* Author Yesterday — Much good may he do you — adieu &

adieu!

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* The New Managers, to whom Garrick had sold his property in Drury Lane. Their first season opened with a Prelude, by the elder Colman, entitled *New Brooms.*

END OF THE LETTERS.

ADDENDA

RELATIVE TO

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE.

SINCE the minutest points of dramatick history have become objects of research and argument, the following documents may be thought acceptable: — at all events, papers tending to remove doubts relative to the Comedy of the CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE are no anomalous appendage to a book consisting, chiefly, of letters on theatrical topicks; and of which those from GARRICK to COLMAN (joint authors of the play above mentioned) form a considerable portion.

Previously to giving the evidence in my possession, a reference to some Opinions on this case may not be improper.

In a series of plays, with "*Remarks*" (mingled with biography) "*by Mrs. Inchbald,*" that lady has observed, of Garrick, that, —

'The favour in which he was held by the town, made them attribute to his genius (and Colman never came forth to deny such conjecture) the most popular character in this play — Lord Ogleby. But it is rather to be suspected that Garrick did no more as a writer to the work, than cast a directing hand and eye over the whole; a task he was much better able to perform for the advantage of an author, than to produce any one efficient part.'

Well *suspected*, Mrs. Inchbald! — but I have, already, taken the liberty (of the *Press*) to ask this lady how she happened only to suspect, when she should have done all in her power to *ascertain*. It is incumbent upon writers to procure as much knowledge as they can of subjects on which they profess to instruct the publick; on *this* subject, it might have occurred that, I had some information to give, and I would have given it, with pleasure, if Mrs. Inchbald had done me the honour to request it; but she chose to *guess* — it is the shortest way, and saves Criticks and Biographers a world of trouble!

Much in the same spirit of preferring ease to duty, thus publisheth the *Continuator* of the *Biographica Dramatica*: — 'We have usually heard that Garrick's share of this piece was Lord

Ogleby and the courtly family; and Colman's, Sterling and the city family.'

Where did We hear this? — and hear it *usually*? — it is a comical mode of scribbling a comedy! — The two families in this play are blended in conversation, through most of the scenes; and, to write according to the foregoing receipt, one author must have penned a question, and the other an answer, — here, Garrick must have replied, for Lord Ogleby, — there, Colman must have rejoined, for Mr. Sterling, — and so on, *iterum iterumque*. — The folly of having listened to such a supposition needed not the additional absurdity of recording it.

But the *Continuator* continues; — and he says that, — 'The following was related to us by a gentleman, who declared it was from the mouth of Mr. Colman himself: "Garrick composed two acts, which he sent to me, desiring me to *put them together*, or do what I would with them. I did put them together, for I put them into the fire, and wrote the play myself."'

This account differs from that which *I* have heard, from '*the mouth of Mr. Colman himself*.' What he told me, I shall tell again, presently; — in the mean time, it is enough to observe, that I think the gentleman must have very much mistaken my father, or that the Continuator must have very much mistaken the

gentleman; the latter I presume to be the case; for, if I may judge from a few paragraphs in which the Continuator is pleased to mention *me*, he sometimes does not know the fact, — or knows it imperfectly, — or misleads others by his mode of telling it; as for instance — He talks of my having been a member of Christchurch *College*, a college which is never called any thing but *Christchurch*, by Oxonians; — of my entrance at the Temple, instead of Lincoln's Inn*: — of a Haymarket Theatre *Patent*, transferred to me, on the death of my father, which Patent was never possessed by either of us: — and, afterwards, (which is a little more grave) he states, under the article X Y Z, a farce which I wrote, and produced in Covent Garden, that 'it was alleged, in the Court of Chancery, that a contract subsisted between Mr. Colman and the other proprietors of the Haymarket Theatre, that Mr. Colman should write only for that house:' — the Continuator then adds, — 'The proprietors of Covent Garden, not knowing of this contract,' — [observe, he here leaves out the word *alleged*, and assumes the positive existence of such a contract] — 'had engaged Mr. Colman to furnish them with a farce; nor were they served with notice of such contract before they had actually advanced 200l. to Mr. Colman, and made preparations for acting the piece.'

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* I *resided* in the Temple, but my name was entered at Lincoln's Inn.

If this do not strongly imply (to say the least) that, as a *furnisher of farces*, I *swindled* my old and esteemed friends, Messrs. Harris and Co., out of two hundred pounds, then am I utterly ignorant of the English language.

Now, the simple fact is, that, during a Chancery suit, it was unexpectedly contended, on one side, and denied on the other, that I had made such a contract; and the Chancellor laid an injunction upon the farce, *pendente lite*, as is common in similar cases; which injunction was ultimately *withdrawn*, and the Farce declared *to belong to the Covent Garden proprietors*, at *whose theatre it is now acted.*

I beg pardon for this digression; — it fell in my way, — and I have silently laboured under this terrible article of X Y Z, since the year 1812, when the Continuator sent me his book, as a *compliment.* — He meant me neither injury nor offence; nor do I mean him any; but, worthy man, he has a devil of a knack at "marring a curious tale in the telling!"

To resume, — When this play was first consigned by it's authors to the press, the motto on the title-page was,

'Huc adhibe vultus, et in *unâ* parce duobus:
Vivat, et *ejusdem simus uterque parens!*'

and, in the advertisement which follows the title-page, the reader is told that, — 'Both the authors, who have been before separately honoured with the indulgence of the publick, now beg leave to make their joint acknowledgments for the very favourable reception of the CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE.' I had forgot to say that, the title-page bears the names of *George Colman* and *David Garrick*, as the authors.

Is it likely that (either before or after such an avowal) Colman could so far commit his character as a gentleman, or even as a man of common consistency, as to assert that 'he put Garrick's two acts into the fire, and wrote the play himself?'

It appears, however, from the contradictory reports, and surmises, to be gathered from Mrs. Inchbald and the Biographia Dramatica, that, — Garrick writ Lord Ogleby; that he did no more than cast a directing hand and eye over the whole; that the courtly characters belong to Garrick, and the *bourgeoisie* to Colman; and that Colman writ the *whole play!*

Enough of these incongruities; — of their both having a share in the play, there cannot be a doubt; and that they did not construct it in the ridiculous way of each author alternately making speeches for the two families, is pretty clearly proved by one of

Garrick's letters from abroad; in which he says, — 'have you thought of the Clandestine Marriage? *I am at it.*'

The probable process was, that they consulted, first, as to the general plan, and, secondly, as to the conduct of the incidents and scenes; then wrote *separately;* and then compared and modified, *together*, what each had composed.

I now proceed to the documents, which are in my late father's hand writing, and which he has headed, '*Papers relative to plan of Clandestine Marriage.*'

FIRST DOCUMENT.

"*G. C. to D. G.*

IDEA OF PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS.

GARRICK — Earl of Oldsap * — an old Lord that fancies every woman in love with him, w^ch^ idea influences his whole behaviour,

* In these crude hints for a Comedy, the *Dramatis Personæ* were not regularly *christened;* hence it will be found that the names of *Performers*, intended to act some

& makes him leer, ogle, & pay a ridiculous attention to all he meets. — But this notion you are more fully possest of than I.

——, Lord Sapplin — his Son. —

——, Traffick — a rich merchant of the city, who has created a great fortune by business; whose great ambition is to appear generous & genteel, w^{ch} serves more effectually to expose his *Bourgeoise* manners. He talks of all elegances, marks of grandeur, &c. in the most vulgar stile. In this character may be happily introduced all the modern *common-places* of humour on the Citizen —

——, Lovewell — privately married to Miss Bride — warm, and sensible.

M^{rs} Clive, Kennedy, or Bradshaw — Sister. to Traffick — and something of the same character in Petticoats — only that he is

of the characters, are repeatedly substituted for the characters themselves: — thus, by Miss Bride, is meant the *Fanny* of the Play; Miss Pope, Miss Sterling; and Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Heidelberg. *Traffick*, afterwards, became *Sterling*, Lord Oldsap, Lord Ogleby; and Lord Sapplin, son to the old nobleman, was changed to Sir John Melvil, his nephew.

rough & hearty in his manner, & she affects to be delicate & refined. Her dialect is particularly vulgar, aiming at the same time to be fine, not by murdering words in the slip-slop way, but by a mean twang in the pronunciation, as *Qualaty — famaly*, &c.

Miss Pope —— eldest daughter to Traffick, a keen, smart girl, full of spirit, sense, wit, humour, mischief, & malice.

Miss Bride —— youngest daughter to Traffick — a sensible girl, of a soft & amiable temper, not without proper spirit ——

ROUGH DRAUGHT OF THE GEN^{L} SCHEME.

A Treaty of Marriage is supposed to be on foot between the Court and City Family, in w^{ch} it is intended that Lord Sapplin, Garrick's Son, shall be married to Miss Pope, eldest daughter to Traffick. It happens, however, that the young Lord has contracted a violent affection for Miss Bride, who is *before the beginning of this play* clandestinely married to Lovewell. The efforts made by Lord Sapplin to bring about his match with Miss Bride, instead of Miss Pope — the perplexities arising therefrom to the young Couple, Lovewell and Miss Bride — the growing jealousy,

& malicious artifices of Miss Pope — & the naturally involving the old Earl (Garrick) in circumstances tending to shew his character —— together with the part w^ch^ Traffick & his Sister may naturally take in this affair —— to make up the Story of the Play.

Here is undoubtedly sufficient ground to build a Comedy upon, as well as a faint outline of the plan of the Comedy itself. For these three days I have been endeavouring to collect my thoughts in order to fill up this outline. My labour, I hope, has not been entirely lost; though I have not half accomplished my design. I have drawn out the above rough sketch, merely to enable you to think in the same train with me: & that you may be still better acquainted with *the stuff of my thoughts*, I have here subjoined some loose hints of Acts, Scenes, manner of conducting the Story, of shewing the characters to advantage, &c. &c. &c.

N. B. Before I go into any thing else, I w^d^ first submit one thing to y^r^ consideration concerning the General Scheme drawn out above: & that is, "Whether the Plot w^d^ not be still more "pleasantly embarrassed by introducing a character (a *good* "one) openly intended to be married to Miss Bride?" This perhaps might make her's & Lovewell's situation more critical, as well as L^d^ Sapplin's, & might produce some pleasant circum-

stances from the direction of Miss Pope's jealousy to a wrong object.

LOOSE HINTS OF ACTS AND SCENES.

I.

In the first act, & as soon as possible, the Audience sh^{d} be made acquainted with the 2 grand points, on w^{h} the whole will turn, viz — the clandestine marriage of Bride & Lovewell, & Lord Sapplin's defection from Pope & attachment to Bride. — In order to do this the better, & to heighten Lovewell's character above the insipid level of *good sort of men* in comedies, as well as to account more probably for the proposed union between the 2 families, I w^{d} suppose Lovewell to be a relation of the noble family (a nephew of the old Earl's perhaps) placed with Traffick in order to be brought up as a merchant, in w^{ch} case the young Lord might not improperly make him the Confident of his passion & intentions; w^{ch} w^{d} become both interesting & pleasant to the audience, who are in the secret of his being privately married to the object of his Lordship's passion; & Lovewell's emotion & constraint on receiving this intelligence meeting together might afford room for some theatrical touches, of even a Garrickean nature. — In this first

act too the old Earl (Garrick) might be shewn dressing, & he might speak of himself — hold his son cheap as a man of gallantry — talk of what *he* c^{d} do with the women — that even now all the family are more in love with him, &c. &c. — a short lawyer scene (à la Hogarth) with some family-strokes on mortgages, settlements, &c. might perhaps be introduced. — If the City Family are at all produced in this Act, they may be supposed in expectation of the arrival of the Lords — Preparations making on all hands — Traffick talking of his venison, turbot, pine-apples, &c. His sister on tenterhooks to receive persons of *famaly* — & Miss Pope's Elevation & Pride ab^{t} her noble match, & contempt of her sister — &c.

II.

Between the 2 acts I think I w^{l} suppose the Lords to have arrived, for the sake of opening the second with a scene of Oldsap (Garrick) with all the women — though this may be contrived fifty different ways — Such a scene, however, I am sure w^{d} be pleasant — A scene of humour also might be struck out from Traffick's shewing his garden, & giving an acc^{t} of his *improvements* in the *modern* way. You will not find many materials for this in y^{r} own garden at Hampton; but you may among y^{r} neighbours. — In this act also L^{d} Sapplin may

find means to make a declaration to Miss Bride, whose amiable character may be shewn, & her spirit properly exerted in refusing him — she may expatiate on the indelicacy of his tranferring his addresses from her sister to her, an indelicacy in wch she shd partake, if she gave the least encouragemt to them, or even heard them without emotion. Miss Pope's jealousy might in this place be excited by some interesting circumstance, wch shd give cause to her suspicion, incense her agst. Ld. Sapplin & her sister, whom she supposes endeavouring to circumvent her, & she may resolve to carry her point by making a friend of the old Earl by paying her court to him, & playing on his foible, wch her shrewdness has discovered, & her malice determines her to turn to her advantage.

III.

N. B. Though I mark the acts thus, I by no means wd suggest to you, that I have here planned out any thing like the form of the business of the Play. — But to go on ——

Here it may be resolved between Lovewell & Miss Bride, that she shall break the secret of their marriage to the old Earl. His peculiar behaviour to her, wch she modestly construes into the good-natured partiality of an old gentleman, induces her to

take this liberty; for He (Garrick) fancying all women in love with him, behaves to all women, as if He was making love to them. — Miss Bride applies to Garrick for this purpose — but after having revealed L^d^. Sapplin's proposals, & mentioning that she has *particular*, as well as general, reasons for declining them, her confusion will not permit her to go on, & she retires without making the discovery. — Having dropt some faint hints of her devotion elsewhere, the old Earl takes it for granted she means him, though her modesty w^d^. not let her speak out, looks upon this as a declaration of her passion, & though all other women will break their hearts, determines to take pity on her. Miss Pope may afterwards apply to him, & intermixing flattery of him, make her complaint of L^d^. Sapplin, & tell Garrick that L^d^. S. & Miss Bride mean to trick her, in w^ch^ situation Garrick's confidence that she is mistaken in imagining that Miss Bride has a passion for L^d^. S. — that he knows better — that he can tell where *her* affections are placed — with things of the like nature — may produce a scene, w^ch^ may very properly follow up that described immediately before.

IV.

Here if the character meant to be married to Miss Bride were introduced, good use might be made of him — as a tool,

Wch Knaves do work with, call'd a Fool.

Miss Pope might apprize him of the wrong intended both to herself & him, shew him the supposed reason of Miss Bride's indifference, & work him up to counteract their plot. In the mean time Lovewell & Miss Bride determine that he (Lovewell) shall apply to the old Earl, since she failed; wch he does, & on his mentioning Miss Bride, before he can tell his story, Garrick acquaints him of his own passion for her, & Lovewell is in his turn as much confounded as his Wife was before. Garrick resolves to break the matter to the family by opening his mind to the old Lady, Traffick's sister, who at first imagines that he means herself, & on finding her mistake treats him with contempt.

* * * * * * * *

Cætera desunt

* * * * *

Of the *Denouement* I have not as yet even conceived those imperfect ideas I have got of some other parts. Think of

the whole, & think in my train, if it appears worth while, & when you have thrown y^r^ thoughts on paper, as I have done mine, we will lay our heads together, Brother Bayes.'

The foregoing rough Sketch affords no clue for discovering which of the authors first started the idea of founding a Comedy on Hogarth's Plates of *Marriage à la Mode;* but it establishes the fact that the outlines of the Plan, and of the principal Characters, were designed by Colman; and, to those who have seen or read the play, it must be evident how closely it has followed the main incidents proposed in the sketch: witness, — the intended union of the two families; Sterling's preparations, at his villa, for the arrival of Lord Ogleby, and his *suite;* Sir John Melvil's falling in love with the *sister* of his proposed Wife, and imparting his flame to the man whom that sister has clandestinely married; the jealousy of Miss Sterling; the *equivoque* of Lord Ogleby supposing Fanny has conceived a passion for him, & the consequences produced by it; the introduction of the Lawyers; — in short, all the leading *incidents* have been adopted, & nothing rejected, except the introduction of a person openly intended to be married to Fanny.

As to the *Characters*, we have the several *contours* of their features, in the above hasty draught: of Canton, indeed, and Brush, and the Chambermaids, (the appertenances to the two families, naturally thrown in, during the progress of the work,) there is no mention; and of Lord Ogleby's vanities and gallantry, Colman says, to Garrick, who originally thought of acting the part himself, "You are more fully possessed of this notion than I."— A word or two, on this, in due time

The *denouement* seems to have been the *puzzler* for both authors; and brings to mind the dramatist who said that, he wished there were *no such things as fifth acts.* It was, I conclude, after they had "laid their heads together," that my father scrawled the *latter* part of the following.

SECOND DOCUMENT.

"V.

LOOSE HINTS OF ACT 5.

Scene of Sterling, Ogleby, lawyers, &c. on filling up blanks, & settling all the clauses of the settlement — disputes arise, &

Sterling agst both matches, declaring that he will not marry his family into a Chancery suit — In the midst of their disputes enter Miss Sterling laughing immoderately, & brings in Betty trembling, who, being *interrogated* discovers the whole of the Clandestine Marriage.

V.

Lovewell, & Fanny, & Betty in Fanny's apartment — Betty may tell them that M^{rs}. Lettice has been *pumping* her — Lovewell tells Fanny that finding the misconstruction of L^{d}. O., he was just on the point of explanation when Sir John appeared — but that he will certainly break it the next morning to Sir John — & this night shall conclude her anxieties on the clandestine marriage. — (Sc. 2.) Another apartment. Miss Sterling & M^{rs} H. in their night-cloaths — to them Lettice, who tells them she has been on the watch, & saw a man go into Miss Fanny's room — They immediately conclude it to be Sir John — & Miss Sterling resolves to expose her sister & Sir John — the family alarmed — various night-figures — Betty brought in trembling, who discovers the whole affair — then Lovewell — & at length Fanny, who being pardoned, Sir John's match breaks off, & the piece concludes by Sterling & Ogleby both joining in good humour about Fanny & Lovewell."

Such are the documents; — a few words more, and I conclude.

In respect to the report, of Garrick having written the entire character of Lord Ogleby, my father once told me, that, it was not true; that, as an instance to the contrary, he (my father) wrote the whole of Ogleby's first scene. He, also, informed me, that one of Garrick's greatest merits, in this work, (and it is a very great one,) was planning the incidents in the last act; — the alarm of the families, through the means of Mrs. Heidelberg and Miss Sterling, and bringing forward the various characters from their beds, to produce an explanation, and the catastrophe. I regret that, when my father imparted this, I did not make further inquiry; but I was, then "a moonish youth," and troubled my head little or nothing about the matter. — He always talked, however, of the Play as a joint production.

Dramatick Connoisseurs may discover the styles of authors; and there are few such connoisseurs who will not, I think, be of my opinion, that, far the greater part of the dialogue, in this Comedy, came from my father's pen, rather than that of Garrick.

I, certainly, agree with Mrs. Inchbald in her criticism on the limited powers of Garrick as a writer.

But, after all, the Authors stand accused of plagiary! — of stealing from an unprinted Farce, intitled '*False Concord*,' written by the Rev. James Townley, formerly Master of Merchant Tailors' School.

"It is worthy of remark, that in this Farce were three characters (Lord Lavender, Mr. Sudley an enriched Soap-boiler, and a pert valet,) which were afterwards transplanted, with the dialogue of some scenes, nearly *verbatim*, into the *Clandestine Marriage* (brought out two years afterwards), under the names of Lord Ogleby, Mr. Sterling, and Brush. These facts were first made public by Mr. Roberdeau, in his *Fugitive Verse and Prose* *, published in 1801; Mr. R. having married a daughter of the late Mr. Townley."

BIOGRAPH. DRAMAT.

* I have inquired for Mr. Roberdeau's book, but cannot procure it.

On this question, I have little more to observe than, that there are several instances of detracting, in this way, from the merits of very successful authors; —

'Garth did not write his own Dispensary.'

Townley's Farce, it seems, was only acted *one* night, (for Woodward's Benefit,) and he did not print it. It would be strange if Garrick robbed, (or were accessary to his colleague's robbing,) his friend Townley: in the two Pieces, there may be some coincidence, without theft; but the ground-work of the *Clandestine Marriage* was professedly suggested by Hogarth's prints: — at the worst, there is no great literary crime in catching hints (if any *were* caught) from an apparently still-born farce, and improving upon them in a play of lasting vitality.

GEORGE COLMAN, *the Younger.*

FINIS.

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